

Egypt and the Holy
Land in 1842, with
Sketches of Greece,
Constantinople, and
the Levant - Primary
Source Edition

William Drew Stent

Egypt and the Holy Land in 1842, with Sketches of Greece, Constantinople, and the Levant - Primary Source Edition

William Drew Stent

Nabu Public Domain Reprints:

You are holding a reproduction of an original work published before 1923 that is in the public domain in the United States of America, and possibly other countries. You may freely copy and distribute this work as no entity (individual or corporate) has a copyright on the body of the work. This book may contain prior copyright references, and library stamps (as most of these works were scanned from library copies). These have been scanned and retained as part of the historical artifact.

This book may have occasional imperfections such as missing or blurred pages, poor pictures, errant marks, etc. that were either part of the original artifact, or were introduced by the scanning process. We believe this work is culturally important, and despite the imperfections, have elected to bring it back into print as part of our continuing commitment to the preservation of printed works worldwide. We appreciate your understanding of the imperfections in the preservation process, and hope you enjoy this valuable book.

EGYPT

THE HOLY LAND

IN 1862.

WITH A HISTORY OF THE LAND AND ITS INHABITANTS.

EGYPT
AND
THE HOLY LAND.

— THE HOLY LAND —

VOL. I.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. I.

BOOK I.

RICHARD C. BENTLEY, NEW BURLINGTON STREET.

LONDON: 1862.

1862.

E G Y P T
AND
THE HOLY LAND

IN 1842,

**WITH SKETCHES OF GREECE, CONSTANTINOPLE,
AND THE LEVANT.**

BY W. DREW STENT, B.A.

OF WADHAM COLLEGE, OXFORD.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. I.



LONDON:

RICHARD BENTLEY, NEW BURLINGTON STREET,

Publisher in Ordinary to Her Majesty.

1843.

EGYPT

THE HOLY LAND

IN 1843

WITH EXPLANATIONS OF SCENES OF INTEREST

AND THE TEMPLE

BY W. L. BENTLEY, ESQ.

OF THE TEMPLE OF JERUSALEM



IN TWO VOLUMES

VOL. I.

LONDON:

RICHARD BENTLEY, NEW BURLINGTON STREET.

LONDON:
PRINTED BY SCHULZE AND CO., 13, FOLAND STREET.

DEDICATION.

TO THE KINDEST AND MOST EXCELLENT OF PARENTS,
AND TO A BROTHER WHOSE NEVER-FAILING ATTENTION
SO GREATLY CONTRIBUTED TO ENHANCE THE PLEASURES
OF MY TOUR, THE FOLLOWING PAGES ARE DEDICATED,
WITH EVERY SENTIMENT OF DEEPEST GRATITUDE, AND
JUSTLY-MERITED HEARTFELT AFFECTION.



P R E F A C E.

THOUGH numerous publications have issued from the press, referring to the countries treated of in the following work, yet the interest excited by the present condition and prospects of those distant climes is so general in our own land, not only from the manner in which Britain has of late years intermingled in their political affairs, but from so great a probability existing that before long she may be again perhaps still more deeply involved in them, that on this account the remarks now offered to the public, made on the spot from recent personal observation, may be deemed not altogether unworthy of interest and attention. In addition to the reflections on the moral, political and social state of the Levant, together with a cursory glance at the antiquities and other objects most de-

serving of notice, particular care has been taken as regards those points so necessary to all travellers, which include the requisites and best seasons for visiting the different countries referred to, the methods of travelling, the accommodation, the prices charged, the needful expenses, roads, passports, *douanes* and other general information ; so that it is hoped these pages may be found useful to those about to visit the climes of the East, as well as to afford some amusement and information to those who may remain in their own land.

LONDON, MAY, 1843.

CONTENTS

TO

THE FIRST VOLUME.

INTRODUCTION.

Requisites for travelling in the East—Wardrobe—Letters of introduction—Passports—Best method of taking money—Books required—Fire-arms—Writing materials—Medicine—Additional necessities for a lengthened tour—Most favourable seasons for visiting Eastern countries—Different routes from England—Comforts not to be expected by the traveller in Greece—Best method of engaging a servant—Value of Greek coins 1—13

CHAPTER I.

Leave Malta for Zante—Arrival at Patras, curious reception there—Charges of Hotels—Bargaining in Greece—Position and appearance of Patras—Missilonghi—

CHAPTER I.

Leave Malta for Zante—Arrival at Patras, curious reception there—Charges of Hotels—Bargaining in Greece—Position and appearance of Patras—Missilonghi—Byron—Environs of Patras—Culture and management of the currant—Mr. Robinson, our vice-consul—Embark for Corinth—The voyage—Incidents—Superstition of the Sailors—Glorious scenery of the Gulf of Lepanto—Parnassus—View of Corinth—Inn—Ancient column—Description of a prospect from the Acrocorinthus—Favourable position for commerce—Routes from Corinth to Athens and Argos—Specimen of natural Corinthian brass in making arrangements for Napoli—Our equipment—Departure for Argos—Wretched roads—Scenery and produce of the district—Plum of Argos—Mycenæ, its citadel—Gate of Lyons and tomb of Agamemnon—Argos, its Acropolis and theatre—Stupendous walls of Tiryn—Napoli di Romana, its situation, edifices, and street—Hotel Capo d'Istria—Aspect and customs of the natives—Way to Sparta and its valley.

EARLY in the past year, accompanied by my brother and a small party in search of

either health or amusement, I sailed from Malta to Zante, where having remained a few days to visit its Pitch Wells and abundant groves of orange and lemon, as well as to feast on its well-fattened turkeys, its myriads of woodcocks, and witness the havoc of its almost unceasing earthquakes, we subsequently coasted along within full view of the fine bold rugged outline of the Morea to Patras, at which town we first set foot on the classic shores of Greece; and truly our treatment was then most ungrateful towards those who had spent so many months and toilsome years in poring over the learned tomes of the at least well-thumbed, if not well-digested lore, of this "land of lost gods and god-like men."

Unfortunately for us all, the town was so deeply occupied in the carousals attending the celebration of a grand festival, that, on landing, no officer could be discovered to examine the baggage or passports, while we meantime were driven into a highly-railed pen, where a man presided over us, who

brandished a huge staff whenever any one attempted to move, and uttered ireful menaces ; and there we stood like cattle to be disposed of to the highest bidder, idlers collecting from every quarter to stare out their amazement at the new importation, till at length, that most dignified of all officials, the petty officer of a petty town, condescended to pay his visit of inspection that freed us from our somewhat ludicrous, though by no means comfortable position.

This ceremony concluded, we proceeded to jostle our way through the motley group of men, women, and children, of fierce-looking Albanians, crafty Greeks, and plundering Italians, to an hotel. Several houses, dignified with that appellation, were recommended ; but that called the Grand Britannia is really comfortable ; though here, as in every other part of the country, we were compelled to bargain for rooms and meals ; and after a long contention with mine host, agreed to pay a sum equivalent to two shillings each for breakfast, including eggs and

meat ; three shillings for dinner, and two shillings a bed, which was far less than would have been charged, had a previous agreement not been made.

The position of Patras, at the southern entrance of the Gulf of Lepanto, is peculiarly favourable for commerce ; it is built along the shore and on the lower slope of a rather elevated hill crowned by the massive walls of a ruined fort. The best streets are as yet unpaved, though straight and spacious ; some are only marked out, but the houses though wretched, and often unfinished within-side, present a cheerful appearance from their recent construction, the town having been rebuilt since Otho came to the throne. From its situation and the frequent communication of steamers that call here from Malta and Trieste, it will fast improve in importance. Already it contains a long row of shops amply furnished with various commodities.

This place was of much importance in the palmy days of Greece, and was subsequently colonized by Augustus ; but the

only vestiges of bygone glory are the scanty ruins of an aqueduct and of the walls of its Acropolis. The shores of the gulf extending far on either side of the town are rocky and precipitous, but the point of the opposite coast, on the northern entrance of the gulf, extends for some miles in a perfectly marshy flat, on which stands, or rather did stand previously to the revolution, the town of Missilonghi; for at that period of rapine it was completely demolished, and it presents to this day a sad spectacle of ruin. Much interest, however, attaches to it, not only for the brave though vain resistance, worthy of the heroic ages, made by its garrison under the famed Marco Bozzaris against the overwhelming forces of Egypt and Turkey, but still more from the fact that our own immortal poet here bade adieu to this world. Scarcely a vestige of that house remains wherein he breathed away his life; but while Poesy can survive, Byron can never die.

Before quitting Patras, it must be observed, that the plain and mountain slopes

around it are covered with plantations of the vine ; this locality being the most favourable in all the kingdom for the production of the small currants, which form the chief article of exportation. They are so named from Corinth in the neighbourhood of which they once principally grew ; the vines much resemble our common currant bush, and are always kept low ; the cultivation requires much attention, neither will they grow, except along the north-western shores of the Morea and in the Ionian Islands ; even when planted only a short distance inland, the crop is found to fail. So good is this trade at Patras and Zante, that English merchants are constant residents in both places, who amass considerable fortunes ; the exports from the mainland have increased immensely since the revolutionary war, when the plantations were almost wholly destroyed.

It was our intention to have proceeded hence to Corinth by land, but the English Vice-Consul Mr. Robinson, whose family, with that of the Consul, are the only Bri-

tish residents, and whose kindness, without the slightest introduction, was unbounded towards us, represented the state of the roads and mountain torrents (for there are no bridges) to be so bad from the heavy rains, that we were compelled again to trust to the billowy breast of the deep. Having, therefore, procured a three months' licence to sport in any part of his youthful Majesty's dominions, for about two shillings, with a native passport from the "Basileus tes Hellados," alas! of how fallen degree, though there yet is something inspiring in the very name! we set sail for Corinth in a small trading vessel, not omitting to take a plentiful supply of cold meat, wine and brandy, to enable us to contend with the chilling air of dawn and evening.

Our sole accommodation was one wretched cabin furnished with a lamp ever dimly burning before the rude picture of a saint, to which one of the sailors, the minstrel of our uncouth and bare-legged but civil crew, ever and anon sang a mournful ditty, in strains of a most monotonous kind, accompanying

himself with the equally unvarying tones of a long rude simple lyre, thinking by these means to propitiate the saint to appease the blasts of Æolus and the stormy billows of Neptune. To extinguish this guardian light, the polar star of our destiny would have proved a calamity almost as grievous, in the opinion of our superstitious crew, as the loss of that sacred flame entrusted in elder days to the tender guardianship of the vestals of Rome.

In addition to the hallowed lamp, our cabin contained, of course, a numberless and as was too soon discovered, most voracious multitude of those unwearied pesters the fleas, called the black game of the East, which thronged every corner, and operated so sedulously and effectually as to entirely chase away all advances of the long wooed Somnus, in the vain expectation of whose coming, we lay four in a row across the two mattresses which our den just received, our carpet-bags forming our pillows.

Such is a specimen of the felicities of Eastern travels, more delightful forsooth in the remembrance than the feeling reality. Most fully, however, were all these trifling annoyances repaid by the magnificent scenery that embosomed the Gulf of Lepanto; the coast on either side being varied, bold and rugged in the extreme, the barren steeps often exceeding six thousand feet in height, looking black and frowning, while many a towering summit was crowned with snow. Few were the marks of cultivation, few the scattered trees of the olive or pine; all was dreary as the imagination could depict.

Here a lofty mountain rose precipitately from the bosom of the gulf, then receding to a distance from the water it afforded space for successive slopes, or even a considerable plain. While elevated far above the surrounding heights, rose the lofty summits of Parnassus, a "Monarch of mountains crowned with its diadem of snow." But the scanty remains of the Delphic shrine

with the crystal front of Castalia, the state of the weather did not permit us to visit.

Before proceeding thus far along the gulf, we passed the low strong castles of Romelia and Morea, which placed opposite to each other at the narrowest point effectually guard the strait, being in fact justly denominated its Gibraltar. Beyond these forts on the northern side, built on a slope, rising considerably above the waves, and commanded by a citadel, is the bare dismal walled town of Lepanto. The village of Vostitza stands on the southern shore, about twenty miles from Patras ; it is on the site of the ancient Agium, and is the only modern place of the slightest importance before reaching Corinth ; I say modern, because some miles east of Vostitza, are seen a few wretched huts to which the name of Basilico is given, and these usurp the site of the renowned city of Licyon, of which insignificant traces of a theatre and stadium alone survive to attest all its admired magnificence.

Eastward of Licyon extends a plain, narrowed at first, but gradually widening till it expands into the broad space surrounding Corinth, whose "tower-capped Acropolis, which seems the very clouds to kiss" uprose before us in all its glorious majesty. How delicious and balmy was the air, as we quitted joyfully our little vessel, having paid very dearly for the voyage in it! We immediately walked to the town, which stands nearly two miles inland, a level tract intervening, in some parts cultivated with grain, in others producing only wild-flowers, those blowing in abundance, though it was the month of January, the soil being light and stony.

Highly favoured did we consider ourselves in being permitted to journey even thus far, remembering the words of the poet, "*Non cuivis homini contingit adire Corinthum.*" Recalling the fame of this renowned city in our school-boy annals, we could scarcely deem we looked upon it, in regarding the ruined blackened walls which extended far around, affording ample proof,

were aught needed, of the sad scenes of desolation that marked the setting of the waning Crescent of Islamism on these her western shores.

Already is Corinth fast rising from her ashes ; many a cheerful-looking dwelling is seen amid the falling walls, and she bids fair to become once more a prosperous and flourishing town, boasting even now, to our no small delight, an excellent locanda or inn, as usual, a Grand Britannia. So often has desolating war here laid her ruthless hand that not one Corinthian column is left ; seven low, plain, ill-proportioned Doric pillars alone remain ; they are considered as the most ancient in Greece ; each is formed of a single block of limestone ; one of them is without a capital, and some have no entablature. Besides this, the only signs of the ancient high estate of this noble city, are a confused mass of brickwork with traces of a stadium and amphitheatre ; but its crowning glory is that noble commanding steep, the Acrocorinthus, a citadel, which is only assailable by artillery from

one small eminence, and rising to the height of nearly nineteen hundred feet, frowns in solemn grandeur upon the tiny edifices that nestle amongst the ruinous heaps that encumber its northern base.

Long and arduous is the stony ascent to the citadel ; the outer line of works, nearly two miles in circuit, is carried along the steepest precipices, conveying an effect at once imposing and picturesque ; within this are other lines, entered by different gates, and flanked by a few rusty cannon, the whole being strengthened by occasional square towers. The highest enclosure seems impregnable, were it put into a state of defence, for now the walls are crumbling to decay, as well as the houses and mosques within them, although still

“The whirlwind’s wrath, the earthquake’s shock,
Have left untouched her hoary rock.”

Within its enclosure is a beautiful spring, whereat Pegasus was said to be drinking when caught by Bellerophon.

The prospect from this elevated spot is

one of the most extensive and interesting in the whole country, embracing a beautiful commingling of mountain, valley, forest and pasture, islands and seas ; including on the north, the double-peaked Parnassus and Helicon, with its camel's hunch, those peculiar abodes of the Muses, on the south, a broken gigantic mountain range, extending to Mycenæ and Argos ; while to the west, Lepanto's lengthening gulf stretched far away, and opposite lay the Saronic Gulf, studded with many a storied isle, with Ægina and Salamis, beyond which stood the matchless Parthenon, dim-shadowed in the distant view.

The annals of Corinth from early ages show, that she had but few superiors in arts or arms, till, like her compeers, she too fell beneath the irresistible might of Rome. Soon, however, she rose again, and was become important when the great Apostle to the Gentiles abode there a year and six months, pouring forth his just invectives against her licentious inhabitants.

The position of this city on the isthmus,

between the Ægian and Adriatic, rendered it an emporium peculiarly favourable for commerce, as the central point of communication between the Eastern and Western world. Traces of a canal, intended to connect the two seas, but never completed, are still visible.

There are still many routes diverging from the modern town ; two of these conduct to Athens ; the one across the isthmus to the wretched village of Ralamaki, on the Saronic Gulf, where one may embark for the Piræus. This was the ancient port of Corinth, called Cenchrea, whereat St. Paul shaved his head, because he had a vow ; the other way is by a wild and most romantic mountain path to the ruined village of Megara, which is the halting-place for the first night, whence the next day's journey conducts through Eleusis to Athens.

Besides the above, there are three roads to Argos, and though our destination was to the city of Minerva, yet who could resist this temptation of identifying himself with the Homeric age, of treading that inspiring

ground where once trode the "king of men." The distance by the road passing Nemaë is nearly thirty miles to Argos, and the only remains of antiquity to be seen are the stadium and three columns of the temple of the Nemæan Jove. The other roads to the east of this are shorter; we therefore resolved on taking the latter direction, but eight horses being required for ourselves and baggage, we were long in procuring the complement, and then their masters, who fully did credit to the place by possessing an uncommon stock of most unalloyed Corinthian brass, persisted in demanding far more than was right; but we at last agreed to pay about a dollar for each horse, with nearly half the sum for back fare; and this is a just price.

Such wretches were our animals that even the original Rosinante would have scorned to have owned them of her race; their equipments were equally ignoble, some of the articles dignified with the appellation of saddles, being little better than huge wooden incumbrances, over which our

coats and cloaks were cast for softness' sake, while the best were ancient tattered Turkish saddles, adorned with stirrups of rope, a similar article supplying rein and curb. The attendants, though

" Armed as best becomes a man,
With arquebuss and yataghan,"

were in no better plight, and we ourselves felt in that dreadnought condition of body and mind, which, with the trifling addition of good percussion guns and pistols, is far the best passport in remote districts of the East.

Thus equipped, we bade adieu to Corinth, and though the track was so rough that our necks were every moment in jeopardy, what recked we of this, while inhaling, in January, air delicious as in a May morning in England, and feasting our organs of sight and smell on the many beauteous flowers, that, springing thickly on all sides, diffused their delicious fragrance around, and "tasked not one laborious hour."

How did my heart turn to those so dear

to me, and yet so far away, as I recognised not only the broom, the myrtle, and arbutus, shrubs of our garden in England, but the clematis, the iris, yellow crocus, Michaelmas daisy, and yellow-eyed cistus ! These were, alas ! far the richest produce of the soil, for so slightly is it tilled, that of the most fertile tracts it may in truth, be said with Byron, that man himself " hath marred it into wilderness ;" for save an occasional scanty impoverished crop of grain, nought like cultivation met the eye. A large plain which we traversed, and which might be readily rendered most fruitful, is now only a dreary morass, skirted on either side by a long range of rugged heights, producing only a few stunted wild olives or blasted pines, wild and desolate as the imagination of Salvator could depict.

Having crossed this uninteresting district, our road being often only the worn bed of a mountain torrent, we at length entered the storied plain of Argos. It extends about ten miles in length by six in

breadth, surrounded on all sides, except towards the south-east, where it is bounded by the sea, with a continued range of mountains, in the northern slope of which stand the ruins of Mycenæ, and immediately on the opposite side of the plain, three miles from the bay, on a conical commanding hill, nearly one thousand feet in height, is seen the Acropolis of Argos.

In the midst of this classic plain, erected on a low oblong rock, frown the stupendous walls of Tiryns, and a little beyond is Nauplia, or Napoli, with its proud citadel of Palamedî : here, too, flows the sluggish stream of Father Inachus, and here was situated the fabled Lernæan Pool. The aspect of the plain, though abounding in features at once so grand and interesting, is in itself dreary and barren ; the northern slopes being a light gravelly formation, the southern side swampy, and much that should be fertile producing weeds and wild flowers, or at best, a most scanty pro-

vision of corn for the approaching harvest; the whole lies entirely open; many a ruined church or mosque is scattered around, though houses are rarely seen; the few modern villages consist of small wretched mud hovels, with a large well attached to each, and an humble church: the half-clad inhabitants, looking wild and savage as their dogs, completed a picture of abject modern misery.

The ruins of Mycenæ are most interesting, though of inconsiderable extent. The hill, on which stands the Acropolis, is more than three hundred yards long at the summit, and nearly close behind it rise two rugged steeps of much greater elevation, while on either side run the worn beds of the mountain streams. The walls of the citadel, formed of massive blocks, cut evenly and placed without cement, are clearly traceable throughout their circuit, and are in some parts from fifteen to twenty feet in elevation. The entrance is by two portals, of which the larger, called

the Gate of the Lions, is celebrated as being the oldest specimen of Grecian sculpture extant. Two enormous slabs of stone, covered to a considerable height by the accumulated soil, form the uprights; and a third slab, fifteen feet long, is the lintel, over which stands a huge triangular block, whereon are sculptured in basso-relievo two well-executed lions rampant, a pillar being carved between them, on which the fore-feet rest: they are now headless.

At a short distance, we visited the subterraneous dome, called the Treasury of Atreus, or Tomb of Agamemnon: its height is fifty feet, and the diameter nearly as much. The enormous stone over the portal measures twenty-seven feet in length: the wall withinside, being perforated by numerous small holes, induces an inference that it was once covered with brazen plates.

At Argos, the principal relics of the heroic ages are part of the foundations of

the citadel in some huge blocks, and a theatre in the hill side, having seats cut in the solid rock, amounting to nearly seventy rows in three successive tiers.

The modern town suffered even more severely than most others during the revolutionary struggle, when it may be said to have been in fact destroyed, though already it is fast rising again, many houses being erected among the ruins, the best of which are scarcely respectable, the greater portion being thatched hovels, with walls and flooring of mud.

The aspect of the women was so revolting that I could not avoid fancying they would follow the worthy example of those amiable daughters of Danaus, who murdered their husbands on the same spot only between thirty and forty hundred years ago.

The citadel of Tiryns is truly a stupendous work and affords the oldest example, in the country, of Cyclopean architecture ; its history is lost in the dim antiquity of

the heroic ages ; we know only that it was the residence of Hercules. Its walls and galleries are of incredible substance, often from twenty to thirty feet in thickness, being as many in height, formed of vast blocks, unhewn and quite irregular.

Two miles distant from Tiryns, we reached Napoli, beautifully and romantically situated at the extremity of its fine bay, and enclosed by rugged mountain steeps. The precipitous rock Palamedì rises to a height of seven hundred feet, crowned by a strong fortress, inaccessible except at the point connecting it with the adjoining ridge. Another fortress, built on a rock commanding the town, displays distinct traces of the gigantic masonry of the remote ages. Till its removal to Athens, in 1834, the seat of government and abode of royalty were fixed here, causing the place to increase much in size and importance. It boasts many handsome new edifices and streets, the German names of which ill accord with the feelings of the inhabitants, who amount to about

ten thousand ; but since the removal of the court it has advanced very slowly ; and so advantageous is its position, that the removal of the court to Athens is deemed to have been an inexpedient step.

Otho Street is the most important street, abounding in shops and cafés, each provided with a billiard table, and a broad bench placed round the room. This street extends from the old palace to the square, in which are handsome barracks wherein many military were quartered, including a few Bavarians.

There is one inn here called the Hotel de l'Abondance. The landlord was not only uncivil, but so abundantly exorbitant that we paid more than four shillings for each bed, and about three shillings and sixpence for breakfast.

Here perished the ill-fated Capo d'Istria, who, having greatly distinguished himself in the service of Russia, from whence he withdrew only when she disapproved of the desire of Greece to be freed from the plun-

dering dominion of Turkey, was called by the great majority of his countrymen to preside over them ; but though of acknowledged talent and well-proved patriotism, he was soon assailed by enemies at home and abroad ; his administration was censured, his best acts were condemned, and thus he fell, a true martyr to Greece and freedom's cause, by the hand of an assassin, in the streets of his new capital.

In the neighbourhood of the town, the land was in a much higher state of cultivation, the grain was more flourishing, and vegetables were growing in luxurious abundance. Many parties of listless loungers were passed in the environs, whose merry light-hearted mirth cheered us by its welcome sound.

It may be observed of the men here and throughout Greece, that they are a fine-looking, handsome, well-made race ; their loose jacket, often richly ornamented, its sleeves partly slit open, and leaving the throat exposed, the large handsome scarf

encircling the waist, and containing pistols or a dirk, the full folds of the trowsers depending almost to the ground, the smart red cap, with its dangling tassel of blue silk, combine in producing an air of naïveté, which, added to a natural freedom of manner, impart peculiar grace.

On the beauty of the women, with soft whisperings be it hinted, little praise can be bestowed; this, however, be it remembered, is not altogether a sweeping accusation, since some of the islanders, especially from Hydra and the neighbouring islands, are indeed of surpassing beauty in form and face, of a clear complexion, with dark hair, the eyes large and of speaking expressiveness; but in vain does one seek for that hue of love and hope, that matchless commingling of the rose and the lily that adorns the fair maidens of Britain, with whom aught of loveliness that the brightest climes of the orange and myrtle, nay, that even the world can produce, must for aye unsuccessfully strive to compare. Like the women of more Eastern climes, the females

of Greece lose the semblance of youth while still young in age, and then assume a dirty, untidy air; not so the damsels, whose dress is of most stylish character, the sleeves and bodice of their robe being open and laced, usually much ornamented, while the braids of their long fine hair are intertwined with the rolls of a gaudy coloured kerchief, whereof the ends depend from the side of the head, with equal elegance and taste.

From Napoli, a wild, rugged road conducts into the interior of the Morea, and to the great opponent of Athens; but the expedition thither is arduous, and the grandeur of Lacedæmon is so completely annihilated, that the journey thither was not attempted. We learned, however, that the route to the modern town of Tripolitza passes a narrow defile among the hills, whence an uninteresting way, through much wild mountain scenery, conducts to the picturesque valley of Sparta, of striking fertility, not only in corn, but in the orange, fig, myrtle, and other plants; the

lower slopes of the mountain ranges adjoining being clad with the olive and fir, above which tower rugged barren peaks, often capped with snow.

CHAPTER II.

Departure for Epidaurus—Scenery—Grove of Esculapius—Arrival at Epidaurus—Wretched accommodation—Voyage to Agilia—Description of the tower and Island—Adventure there—Magnificent Temple of Jupiter, and interesting view from it—Tomb of Themistocles—Piræus—Macadamized road to Athens—Arrival at Athens.

FROM Napoli, a journey of one day conducts to Epidaurus, the road throughout being rude and stony in the extreme, equalled only by the wild desolate mountain scenery, among which it winds, and displaying nought to cheer the sight, or break the dreary sameness of shapeless rocks, short herbage, and stunted shrubs, save the blossoms of the gracefully twining clematis and lowly wild flower.

Often on our way did we cross the worn

bed of a wintry torrent only to emerge again on a barren, boundless wild. The sportsmen, however, relieved the tedium by pursuing the large hawks, magpies, woodcocks, red-legged partridges, and other birds that abound in the locality, so that the day being cold, all were quite prepared in a few hours to commit direful execution on the carcass of an enormous turkey, which, with dried figs and rum and water, were devoured under the shelter of the walls of a solitary hut. To such as have never experienced the excitements of travel in a distant clime, a pic-nic in the Peloponnesus may carry an inglorious sound ; but as we demolished our simple Spartan meal with greater gusto than an alderman ever feasted on turtle and turbot, we deemed ourselves not unworthy of the classic ground with our martial cloaks and warlike weapons around us.

An inconsiderable detour from the direct route conducts to the sacred grove of Esculapius, once resplendent with temples and fountains, now sombre with dark-waving

foliage and rugged rocks, where the birds make their nests, and the beasts of the forests their lairs; these only break the solemn silence that reigns around, where of yore rose the busy hum of men, and the exclamations of ten thousand tongues rang echoing through the mystic glades; yet enough remains to tell what once hath been, for the theatre, excavated in a rocky steep, is the most perfect in all the land, containing many semicircular tiers of marble benches, each nearly three feet in width, and displaying all the speaking grandeur of venerable antiquity.

Some distance beyond lies the little village of Epidaurus standing in a confined but fertile plain, at the extremity of a small but picturesque bay, sheltered by the rocky promontory on which stood the old town. Our quarters here were far the worst we had as yet experienced, being a miserable loft, the sole article in which was a wooden bench extending the whole length of the room on one side, whereon we spread two mattresses, but so hard and thin were they, that to

avoid sore aching, one needed to be of Daniel Lambert's kind. The bench not being sufficiently long to admit all the party, some of us laid side by side on other mattresses placed across some villanously rough boards ; in addition to which our old enemies, the fleas, proved to be of that industrious breed, that the London exhibition was completely distanced by them ; so martial were they too, as most admirably to sustain the matchless reputation in arms of the olden deeds of their native clime.

Sleep in truth, was out of the question ; so we rose with the dawn, resolved to be revenged by ordering all the good things of Epidaurus to furnish forth our morning meal ; but here again we were somewhat at a nonplus, though our servant, after a protracted search did at length appear with a supply of bread, honey, eggs, goat's milk, and coffee, the latter in an open shallow pan, only one spoon could be found for all the party, so we wished ourselves among those lucky creatures, who are said to be born with silver ones in their mouths. Our

jaws, however, being amply furnished with the "erkos odonton," and the inner man being responsive to that most savoury of all sauces, hunger, we set on nothing loath; and then engaging one of the small fishing boats in the harbour to take us to the Piræus; we once more embarked for the land of Attica.

Long and vainly, alas! did we whistle for a wind; Æolus was wrapped in so deep a slumber, that he heard not; the surface of the deep was scarcely ruffled by a breath, so, that after passing a few rocky isles, the "shades of evening closed o'er us," when just opposite the cheerful-looking town of Ægina, prettily situated around its adjoining bay. What then was to be done? We were none of those who wooed the billowy breast, like a bird that seeketh its mother's nest; she had proved too unkind a parent for that, and we were glad to fly her embrace on learning there was a locanda in the town.

We disembarked at the little stone pier; but what was our dismay, when our Greek

reported, with doleful visage, that not even an apology for an inn could be discovered. Again we despatched him to an adjoining café filled with the carousing natives, and this time he returned accompanied by a venerable priest, with long beard, and ample black robe, who escorted us to his neat little dwelling at the extreme part of the town, and shewed us into an upper room, certainly clean, but without an atom of furniture; neither could our reverend host supply even a mattress.

Again, therefore, we were cast on the wide world; and to avoid the alternative of spending a night in the street without bed or board, at length, after a long combat, submitted to pay for the use of a comfortable apartment, a sum exceeding seventeen shillings; so venal are the sons of Greece!

The treatment we thus received gave an impression of most unfavourable tendency, in consequence of which we set our man to mount guard outside the door; while, after stopping the broken windows, as best we

could, and trimming the homely lamp, we ourselves inspected guns, pistols, and clubs placing them by our side, ready for action.

Having passed a miserable night, followed by a hasty morning's repast, we surveyed the principal edifice in the town, a large stone quadrangular structure erected for a school by Capo D'Istria, and then set sail with a more propitious breeze, passing the point of the island, on which is one solitary fluted column, the sole remnant of a noble temple. We soon coasted by a hill rising gradually in the interior of the island, crowned by twenty-three imposing doric columns of the temple of Jupiter Panhellenius; it is one of the oldest in Greece, or its ancient dependencies; and though the ground is strewn around with marble fragments, much of the architrave still remains; the sculpture being in a wonderful state of preservation.

Hence came the Ægina marbles, those valued relics of the stiff formal younger days of Grecian art. Is it not a shame to Britain

that she allowed these memorials to pass from her own land to adorn that Athens of Germany, the Bavarian capital? But it is not the temple alone with all its interesting associations that lends such abounding glory to the spot. O, no! this is of secondary consideration; it is the noble, the classic, the hallowed ground, that here bursts on the sight, and carrying the rapt imagination back to those ennobling ages that will ever live, leads it to trace the source whence sprung those matchless arts which are still the admiration of a world. To ponder on their effects, as well upon individual character as national fame; and then, blending these with holier ideas, it leads it to consider what are we, we who are privileged to know or behold all this, that we may learn a lesson so difficult to the pride of man, a lesson of dependance on a higher power, which such a scene must unavoidably suggest.

And what was the prospect that from this point lay extended before me? " 'Twas Greece, but living Greece no more," embrac-

ing many a rocky isle, studded o'er the face of the waves ; with the sea-girt Salamis, Megara, and the Acrocorinthus towering in the distance towards the west. Eastward stretched the long bold shores of Attica to the extreme promontory of Colonna ; and before us rose that matchless pile, that galaxy of temples, which have immortalized the Acropolis of Athens.

Hence to the port of the Piræus the distance was short. Passing its narrow entrance and the considerable ancient structure adjoining called the Tomb of Themistocles, we anchored in the deep harbour, or rather basin, where many small traders rode at anchor with an English seventy-four and a Russian frigate. On either side of the mouth of the port are erected two massive pillars at equal distances, to which a chain may be fixed so as effectually to prevent ingress. Many new houses are erected around the end of the harbour, including a Lazaretto, so that it is not only of some extent, but presents much appearance of activity.

The distance to Athens is five miles by a broad road professedly macadamized but, in reality, so full of inequalities, that the great leveller and reformer of our ways would rather abjure his name than be identified with so disgraceful a work ; this bad state of the road is the consequence of no toll being paid, for the Greeks, having never been accustomed to such an impost, would rather suffer themselves and their vehicles to be shaken to atoms, than submit to what they call a tyrannical exaction.

Having engaged two hackney coaches which were waiting for hire among several others, we jogged onwards across the plain in the best manner the crazy vehicles could proceed ; skirting the ancient long walls of which the vestiges are inconsiderable, and crossing the abundantly flowing brook and stream of the Cephissus, we traversed the olive groves of Academus, which are of considerable extent ; and then the immortal city came full into view. It was, however, almost dark ; so having secured clean comfortable apartments, I retired early to enjoy that

repose which fatigue and excitement so imperiously demanded.

Next morning full of eagerness, I rose betimes, and rushing to the windows that occupied three sides of the elevated apartment, experienced, even in that transient glance, the delightful gratification which a traveller so rarely feels in reality, of having his ardent expectations not only equalled but exceeded ; and this it never was my lot fully to experience in any other place, save only in the city of Salem, the Holy Jerusalem.

CHAPTER III.

Hotels, exorbitant charges—Plain of Attica, its aspect, boundaries, and general features—Suggestions caused by the objects witnessed from the Acropolis—Temples on the Citadel—The Propylon—Temple of Victory—Modern Tower—Parthenon—Erectheus and Minerva Polias—Theatres of Herodes, Atticus and Bacchus—Excavated caverns—Fount of Clepsydra—Areopagus—The Museum and its monument—The Pnyx, as it appears at present—Long walls—Prison of Socrates—Temple of Theseus—Statue of Adrian—Gate of the Agora—Temple of the Winds—Lantern of Demosthenes—Gate of Adrian—Temple of Jupiter Olympus—Stadium—Reflections on the state of the antiquities of Greece.

Our hotel possessed an attraction in name, being called “de Londres,” but the landlord was a rascally Frenchman, who demanded, for five bed-rooms, and a sitting-

room, nearly one pound per day, besides three drachmæ (equal to two shillings and two-pence) from each person for breakfast, and five drachmæ for dinner ; neither would he diminish aught, till we had ordered our chattels to be carried elsewhere, and even when more moderate terms were agreed on, our bill was so full of extortion, that, as a specimen, we were charged two shillings for every wax candle. Of course we only paid the usual sum, a frank.

The Hotel des Etrangers is well spoken of and moderate, but is in a rather inferior situation. That named de l'Europe is in the most airy position, but is also dear and further removed from the principal sights. So ably and repeatedly have the antiquities of this renowned city been described, that in accordance with the plan proposed in the preface, my own observations will refer chiefly to their present state. As regards, however, the plain in which they stand, it may be observed, that it is extensive, of poor slight soil, interspersed with crops of grain, or herbage, and olive plantations ; and ex-

cept on that side where it is bounded by the sea, is enclosed by ranges of mountains, of which Pentelicus lies to the north-east, Hymettus to the east, running in a long unbroken line to the shore; the ridge of Mount Parnes, to the north, extend from Cithæron to the Euripus; and on the west a range stretches to the bay of Salamis, where Mount Agaleas is the most prominent.

A conical hill, Anchesmus, rises to a commanding elevation in the midst of the plain, nearly a mile towards the south, on which mount stands the Acropolis, a flat oblong rock, one hundred and fifty feet high, and of no considerable extent; immediately westward of the citadel, is the smaller lower hill of the Areopagus; and to the south-west, the two last mentioned places, separated only by the small valley of the Agora, runs a line of three hills merging into each other; whereof the loftiest and easternmost is the Museum; and next to it is the Pnyx, where were held the public assemblies.

A short distance to the east of the Acropolis runs the very scanty brook of the Ilissus, taking its source in the neighbouring Hymettus; on the opposite side flows the more distant and copious stream of the Cephissus, meandering with gentle murmurs through the extensive olive groves of the Academy of Plato.

Standing on that proud rock, that formed the fortress and religious abode of the chief divinities of Athens, who could but pause awhile to muse o'er the inspiring scene? There Demosthenes thundered forth his astounding eloquence; here pleaded vainly to a reckless audience the inspired, despised Apostle; on that side was the favoured haunt of Plato, on this of Zeno and Socrates: yonder did the patriot and demagogue alike instil tenets of glory or destruction: more near, these mouldering walls re-echoed with the plausible shouts that greeted a Sophocles or an Æschylus. But now all alike are gone: the heroes have passed to their final rest, the proudest monuments of their greatness fast follow

them ; but for ever will they live in their acts of Arts, of Policy, or of Arms, an inimitable example to endless ages, a proof of the poet's assertion, that though

“ Not e'en can Fancy's eye
Restore what time hath laboured to efface ;
Tho' her fanes, her temples, to the surface bow,
Commingle slowly with heroic earth :
Turned by the share of every rustic plough,
So perish monuments of mortal birth,
So perish all, in turn, save well-recorded worth.”

But that shall live for ever ! In referring to the actual condition of the distinguished monuments of antiquity, I commence with those which crown the Acropolis. The first, on entering the portal, is the Propylon, like the others, roofless, and crumbling to decay, formed of enormous blocks of marble, once of snowy whiteness, but now browned o'er by the hand of time. Its columns are mutilated, its friezes are prostrate around, but the noble portico, sixty feet broad, consisting of six marble fluted Doric pillars, thirty feet in height, still

stands erect, together with the pediment. The depth of this edifice is considerable, having intercolumniations between the two façades: they were built up by the Turks, but have of late been partially removed.

To the right, on a rocky knoll, is a lovely little structure, called the Temple of Victory, now entirely restored, from the foundation, with its own materials, which were discovered on the original site; it is extremely light and elegant, with two porticoes, each formed by four small fluted Ionic pillars, connected by a cella; the length of the whole is about twenty feet, and the height rather less. The porticoes, walls, and entablatures, the work of an admirable period of the art, display all the surpassing beauty of perfection. A lofty modern square tower occupies a portion of the right wing of the Propylon; it is most substantially built of marble blocks from the adjacent ruins and towers, with the proud importance of a fortress over all around.

Ascending further on the hill, the Parthenon itself, in the glory of matchless dignity, rivets the enraptured gaze, the acknowledged noblest architectural monument the world ever beheld. It occupies the summit of the elevation and was erected by the power of Pericles, Phidias, and the other most renowned sculptors, contributing to its adornment. It presents a huge skeleton of Pentelic marble, in length two hundred and twenty-eight feet, by one hundred in width ; each façade is supported by eight Doric columns, thirty-four feet high, by six feet two inches in diameter ; seventeen columns extend on either side ; the platform whereon it stands is ascended by three steps, the façade, which still remains in a comparatively almost perfect state, being surmounted by a pediment eighty feet long, where many figures of colossal size were sculptured in high relief, of which two, considerably mutilated, alone remain ; while, of the cornice and frieze that ranged down the two sides of the temple, divided

by Triglyphs and Metopes, but little is left in the original position. Within the peristyle is a row of six columns, forming the vestibule of the cella, to which is a further ascent by two steps.

The whole structure, with its ornaments, remained nearly complete till towards the close of the seventeenth century, when, during the siege of Athens by the Venetians, the centre, then used as a magazine, was struck by a bomb, causing an explosion so tremendous, that a great portion was destroyed. Since that period, "the Goth, the Vandal, time, war, flood, and fire" have contributed to its destruction; the Turks ground its costly ornaments for mortar, or employed them in erecting their barbaric huts : a portion is therefore lost for ever, other parts being only chipped and mutilated, as is the case with many of the blocks of the pillars, twenty-nine of which remain standing, with their frieze, and a portion of the wall of the cella.

Within the area is a small Turkish

mosque, in which tools are deposited by workmen, many persons being employed in reconstructing, as far as possible, this noble edifice, with the original material.

During our visit they were replacing the blocks scattered around that formed the shafts of the column, several of which are by this means already restored, and some yet remain to be reared. May we not, therefore, cherish a hope that ere long, if not a perfect Parthenon, one may be restored that may again be the admiration in this classic land, and a theme of ceaseless praise to ages yet unborn? Then too, may her marbles, now in our national museum, be restored to their peculiar and proper position, which, despite the anathemas of Byron, would probably have long since been lost for ever, had not the hand of Lord Elgin rescued them from the general wreck.

This, some will argue, can be at best only a partial renovation, and should, therefore, not be attempted; but surely, it is a

glorious and patriotic act to restore this splendid edifice, at least, so far as its own material will permit, for though the appearance may thereby suffer, it can only be in quite a secondary point of interest, as regards its picturesque effect.

North of the Parthenon are the very interesting ruins of the Temple of Erectheus and Minerva Polias; five columns still standing support the façade of the Erechtheum; though not of large dimensions, they are extremely light and graceful, being most perfect specimens of the Ionic order, with capitals of most preeminently exquisite and elaborate workmanship; some of the fragments are now restored. The portico, sustained by the elegant female figures in long robes, called Caryatides, whose hands rest on their hips, is indeed most elegant. These were originally six figures; but two are wanting, which are to be replaced by others newly sculptured, to accord, as far as can be, with the originals.

The surface of the surrounding ground is scattered with fragments, wherein bombs and cannon-balls commingle with shafts of columns, injured capitals, friezes, cornices, and bassi-relievi of exquisite execution. Many such relics, including broken portions of statues, are collected and worked up together, so as to form a long low wall, presenting a motley but deeply interesting group.

The most valuable fruits of the recent excavations are, however, deposited under cover on the spot, and constitute a museum, including relics of the original Parthenon destroyed by the Persians, many of which are of stone covered with stucco, painted in different colours ; there are, besides, several small images, vases, and other utensils, with portions of the ancient tools.

The area of the Acropolis is enclosed by a wall, some of the foundation stones of which being of great size and antiquity induce the belief that they were the wall of Themistocles ; the remainder is of Turkish

or Venetian construction, but much dilapidated from repeated assaults during the revolutionary war.

Many striking memorials of the grandeur of by-gone ages surround the proud ruins on the citadel : of these, the most remarkable, at its base on the south-western side, are some ruined walls, pierced for windows, with a few stone seats in the declivity adjoining. This formed the theatre of Herodes Atticus, and beyond is the scarcely perceptible site of the theatre of Bacchus ; a cavern, excavated in the rocky steep above it, was the temple of the god ; and close by are seen two lofty solitary columns, their capitals being formed for tripods.

In the north side of the Acropolis is excavated the small cave of Agraulus ; and under the walls of the Propylæa is the larger one of Apollo and Pan, containing two ledges for statues of the gods and others for votive offerings. The only access to the adjoining fount of Clepsydra

is from the summit by a flight of steps cut in the rock.

Of the surrounding elevations, the Areopagus or Mars Hill, in point of interest to a christian, claims the first mention. It is small, flat, and somewhat oblong in shape, and is ascended from the valley of the Agora by sixteen steps hewn in the rock, at the top of which may be traced a rude bench facing the south, cut in the same solid material, together with two unshapely blocks just before it, one on either side. The former formed probably the tribunal: at the latter stood the accuser and accused; hence pleaded the undaunted Apostle and declared to his bigoted auditors the greatness and almighty power of their unknown God, while that renowned seat was occupied by the judges who formed the impartial court. The walls of the ancient church of Dionysius are on the opposite side of the hill.

The museum is far more important in extent and height, crowned, too, by the decaying though imposing monument of Philopappus, a Syrian by birth, but who was appointed

a Roman governor under the Emperor Trajan; this lofty memorial displays two mutilated statues, and below them bas-reliefs of full-length figures, with flowing robes, greatly defaced, but of exquisite workmanship.

The Pnyx is connected with the museum, being on its western side, and though of less elevation, yet having a considerable area for the convenience of holding the popular assemblies, the most ancient bema, or stone pulpit, was erected on its highest point, commanding a view seaward to Ægina and Salamis; this was subsequently removed to a lower position for political reasons. The north-eastern side is a gentle slope of semicircular form, partly surrounded by a wall of huge stones, so as to make a regular platform for the audience. Within this part stands the pulpit for the orator, being a portion of the natural rock cut into a square shape, and ascended by three steps. Not far from the western side of this hill may be discovered traces of the long walls that anciently connected the city with the

Piræus, and many excavations, such as steps, seats, or foundations of houses are visible in the lease of this and the adjoining hill. In its north-eastern foot are excavated four small low caverns, three of them having doorways at the sides ; but the largest, an inner chamber, is entered only by a small round aperture from above ; it was in this seat that Socrates is said to have calmly met his death by drinking the appointed fatal potion.

Near the modern road to the Port, at some distance north-west from the Acropolis, stands the only perfect temple of Athens, though this cannot be strictly termed a complete ancient edifice, since the roof is modern. I refer to that interesting monument, the Temple of Theseus, erected after the battle of Marathon, by Cimon, son of Miltiades, of Pentelic marble, though it has now assumed a yellow hue ; it presents a specimen of the pure Doric order, being a periperal hexastyle, with thirteen Doric columns on either side, six forming each of the fronts. The deeds of Theseus

are sculptured on a few of the metopes, but the majority describe the actions of Hercules, portrayed also on the friezes of the pronaos and other parts. These sacred walls enclosed the bones of two or three Englishmen ; but now the whole edifice is appropriated to the purposes of a museum, affording many interesting specimens of art, as vases, relics of statues, and bas-reliefs.

The statue of Adrian in the modern market-place is partially concealed by buildings, its eight noble Corinthian columns standing entire, with their capitals, and the old wall, in a straight line, are of a highly striking character.

The neighbouring gate of the Agora is of four fluted Doric pillars supporting a periment ; the inscription of the market tariff may be in some places deciphered.

Between this gate and the citadel, we visited the Temple of the Winds, or Water-clock of Andronicus, an octagonal tower of marble, deeply bronzed by time. The

accumulated soil that buried much of the lower portion has now been cleared away ; on each side around the cornice is a beautifully sculptured figure, an ideal form of the wind which blew from that quarter whereon it is depicted. These figures represent winged beings floating through the air in an almost horizontal position ; the mildest, Libs and Notus, alone have feet bare, though all are uncovered as to the head. Boreas wears a thick mantle ; Eurus scowls with his muffled right arm ; but Zephyrus showers around those sweets and flowers that are nurtured by his favouring breeze.

Proceeding hence towards the Ilissus, we next came to the choragic monument of Lysicrates, or Lantern of Demosthenes, a small circular structure of white marble, and though disfigured, still possessing extreme beauty ; its six fluted Corinthian pillars having elegantly sculptured capitals supporting a finely-worked frieze, surmounted by a cupola and tripod. This is the sole remnant of a series of temples

named the Street of the Tripods, from the fact of its having been adorned by them.

Just beyond is the Gate of Adrian, an arch with six Corinthian columns of inconsiderable dimensions raised upon it, which are crowned by a rude entablature. Between this arch and the Ilissus we immediately reached the stupendous columns of the Temple of Jupiter Olympus. Sixteen only remain; they are all erect and truly magnificent, towering at least sixty feet from the ground, being six feet and a half in diameter, formed of white marble fluted, with splendid Corinthian capitals; on the thirteen which are close to each other, the architrave yet remains. In this a hermit of yore fixed his aerial abode, whence he could look down with supreme contempt on the busy doings beneath him. This wonderful structure was not only the largest, but the most recent of all the costly fanes of Athens, since it was not completed till the time of Adrian, when it numbered one hundred and

twenty columns, the length being three hundred and fifty-four feet by one hundred and seventy-one in breadth. The Stadium can be clearly distinguished on the opposite side of the brook ; it exceeded six hundred feet in length, being nearly elliptical in shape, the sloping banks, that form its sides once cased with marble seats, are now occupied only by weeds and herbage.

Such are the chief remains of the glory of Athens ; and whether the peculiar excellencies of each or the inspiring associations connected with them be borne in mind, they must be deemed, by the coldest observer, as indeed most remarkable, exceeding, even in their present fallen state, the proudest memorials of the palmy days of Rome ; and though the antiquated appearance of these grandest monuments of elder days is undoubtedly impaired by the modern edifices that surround them ; yet, who shall say, that this is not far better than still to remain unprotected from the spoiling hand of the reckless bigoted Ma-

hometan? They have now a people to revere them, and a king to stop the progress of their decay; and where such a course is practicable, to strive even at their reparation. May endeavours so worthy, nay so enviable, be crowned with justly merited success!

CHAPTER IV.

Aspect of modern Athens ; its streets, houses, churches, market, shops, restaurants, cafés—New edifices in, or near the town, the Theatre, University, Protestant church and palace—English speculators—Motley crowds—Albanian costumes—Martial air—Miss Botzaris—Maid of Athens—Hospitality of Sir E. Lyons—Rev. Mr. Lewes—Excursion to Pentelicus, its quarries and extensive prospect from the summit—Marathon—Thermopylæ—Phylæ—Eleuxis—Salamis.

BEFORE offering some general observations on Greece as an independent nation, and particularly as to its political and social state, it remains to describe first the appearance of the modern town, which stands not far distant on the side furthest removed from the Ilissus, and covers a considerable space, its environs presenting a cheerful aspect from the large number of

villas and handsome structures fast springing up around it, many of them being, in the English or German style, adorned with verandahs, gardens, and trim grass plots. Within the town, however, the features are far less engaging, there being only one square, poor and dirty, and two good streets, which are long and straight. In the centre of the longest, grows the only palm tree that rears its head throughout the plain. Of the other interminable communications in the town, it may be truly asserted that their number is only equalled by their filth and wretchedness : such a labyrinth of intricate, narrow, dirty, winding alleys and lanes I never before witnessed ; when once fairly in the midst of them, it is scarcely possible for the inexperienced to devise a way of egress. Many are almost blocked up by stones or rubbish, and the houses adjoining are often little better than hovels, in a condition too clearly shewing, even yet, that the devastating hand of war hath there fallen with an iron grasp.

This description, it must be observed,

applies to the houses in the remote alleys ; those in and near the principal streets being generally substantial-looking, often, indeed, spacious and handsome ; neither must it be forgotten that at the arrival of the flag only eight years ago, the miserable village then constituting modern Athens, presented only a ruinous heap, containing, as I was assured by one who knew it, scarcely a house of stone, so that the attachés to royalty were compelled at first to sleep in huts not only filthy but so leaky withal, that many a potent official spent the rainy night canopied by an enormous umbrella, in order to prevent, in some degree, the drenching of a constant shower-bath from the clouds.

The churches are extremely limited in size ; the largest, containing a handsomely-decorated gallery for royalty, is quite insignificant, but is covered with a profusion of painting, gilding, and those endless ornaments in which the Greek surpasses even the Latin Church.

The fast-increasing population of the capital already amounts to about thirty

thousand. There is a good market, and many tolerable shops, where not only necessary but even handsome articles may be procured: these are kept chiefly by Bavarian speculators.

The library contains several books in the French language; the English works are so little in demand that they are despatched to Smyrna, where more of our countrymen reside than in the Grecian city.

The Casino is extremely handsome. We were kindly introduced by Mr. Strong, our banker, and thus gained an opportunity of playing billiards, or discussing Galignani, as well as some periodicals, and several French journals. Restaurants abound; that at the Hôtel de Russie is the best: the numerous coffee-houses swarm with idlers, and mischief-making politicians, variously engaged in debating, quarrelling, smoking, drinking, or gambling with cards and their favourite dominoes. Besides these employments, the rattling of the balls of the billiard-table, that invariably stands in the

centre of the apartment, is rarely permitted to cease.

Of the edifices around the town, the principal are the barracks, the military hospital, the royal residence, with those of the ambassadors, a theatre, a spacious university in course of erection, a neat little Protestant church just completed, and an enormous new palace, a plain heavy structure, three hundred feet long, and more than two hundred deep, entirely faced with Pentelic marble, in some parts not pure, and of a greyish hue. The only relief to this long pile is in the principal front, where a small pointed cornice runs along the eaves, and in the centre is a portico supported by low Doric columns, having a balcony above ornamented with pilasters of the Ionic order, surmounted by a low gable head. The windows have a mean appearance, though the cost of the whole is enormous, causing much dissatisfaction to the people, though we were assured the expense was defrayed from his Majesty's private resources. In truth, whatever is touched by the royal

family of Bavaria, must surely turn to gold, otherwise, where can the monarch of so inconsiderable a kingdom, find the funds requisite for rendering his own capital, and that of his son, worthy of the name they bear—the one, as the Athens of Germany, the other, of Greece ?

English, as well as Germans, have of course, in accordance with our national disposition, been induced to speculate in the new kingdom. Among others, Sir Pulteney Malcolm has built a spacious house, while his purser, thinking no better example could be followed, has purchased several acres near the Ilissus, which produce an excellent return : other land, at the foot of Hymettus, is the property of Lady Franklin. The price of ground in the neighbourhood of the town, especially where adapted for building, has increased enormously within the last eight years, as may reasonably be supposed.

To one who reflects for a moment on the bygone days of Greece, and on that most important position which the Athenians so

long occupied in her annals, the present condition of the resuscitated capital is indeed full of absorbing interest. Almost lost for a long series of years, under the rule of barbaric despotism, strange will it be, if, after the lapse of centuries, sprung Phoenix-like from her ashes, she should again rise to claim a name revered not alone by the scholar, the artist, or the antiquarian, but a name to be honoured too by surrounding nations, among which she may rank, not indeed with her ancient grandeur, but with the merited title of a noble independence. Already do the inhabitants of many a distant clime throng the revived city: the French and English, the German and Italian, the Russian and American, commingling in her streets in "confusion worse confounded," and contrasting with the grave Turk, or light-hearted Greek, or with the showy attire of the manly wild Albanian, the numberless folds of whose ample snowy kirtle, descending from the middle to the knee, his gaiters adorned with tassels and embroidery, his richly laced

jacket, with the shirt frilled at the bosom and wrists, his long silver mounted pistols, and light poniard, or massive yataghan, fixed loosely in the scarf that girds his waist, so well harmonize with the muscular limbs and proud lofty mien of him who wears them.

The extraordinary effect of all these costumes and national peculiarities is heightened, in no slight degree, by the uniform of the military, and dashing equipage of the court, though the King often appears on horseback, displaying to advantage his handsome figure and martial air: the lovely Queen is extremely popular with all classes.

The attachés to the court are principally Germans; an unwise plan. We were much gratified, however, by the sight of a distinguished native maid of honour, the beautiful Miss Botzaris, whose eyes, full and dark as the gazelle's, flashed from beneath her raven tresses, which were set off by the usual red cap, with its dangling blue tassel of silk, a costume worthy of the daughter of

the immortal Marco Botzaris, that unrivalled champion of the liberty of his degraded land.

One of the chief lionesses to an Englishman, is she of whom Byron exclaimed—

“Maid of Athens, ere we part,
Give ; oh ! give me back my heart.”

But now those days are past : her beauty is fast fading, with its youthful years, and the cares of a family have metamorphosed the adored heroine into that unpoetical appearance, that accords far better with her plain prosaic name of Mrs. Black !

I should be indeed ungrateful, did I omit to mention the attentions of our minister, Sir Edmund Lyons, which, from the rare experience by English travellers, of the like politeness from the representatives of their nation at foreign courts, was the more appreciated by us. Sir Edmund possesses, indeed, in perfection, the proverbial good-nature and urbanity of a British tar, in which capacity he had the honour of conveying Otho from Trieste to his newly ac-

quired kingdom, and, in consequence, he was raised to the baronetage.

From Sir Edmund we gained every information ; without the slightest introduction, all our party were, moreover, invited to partake of his hospitality ; and had our stay been of longer duration, we could, doubtless, through the same source, have obtained an introduction to his Majesty, who is not generally difficult of access.

In Sir Edmund's house, also, we enjoyed the privilege of hearing the service of an admirable Liturgy performed on Sunday mornings by Mr. Lewes, a clergyman, who has long zealously discharged the important functions of a missionary in the East, and is now permanently established here with his amiable family in a comfortable residence, where the church service is performed each Sabbath evening in the simplicity and "beauty of holiness," one of his daughters performing on the piano, while the venerable father leads his family, in singing praises to God.

Mr. Hill, of whom mention will be made

in speaking of education, as it is conducted in this kingdom, is also a resident, and a clergyman of the establishment.

A survey of the capital being concluded, our attention was next drawn to an investigation of the most interesting points in its neighbouring territory, among which mount Pentelicus, the venerable parent of all the Temples of Athens, stands preeminent; the wild road, nine miles in length, leading to it, traverses the plain, which, though partially cultivated near the town, with corn, vines and olives, presents only wild shrubs and heather on approaching the mount, the rugged sides of which afford a most barren aspect, clothed only with heath, the arbutus, lentisk tree, the pine and the olive, though the oleander and myrtle flourish in the ravines, with the pink and anemone on its lowest declivities.

So rough and steep are the paths, that we did not always venture to trust to our hacks; they are thickly strewn too, nay rather covered, with fragments of marble

from the renowned quarries, cut to an immense distance, and so deep that the perpendicular walls of the largest extend nearly to a hundred feet. Long have the wild shrubs sprung untouched from among the crevices, long

“ No sound was heard, no workman’s hammer rung ”

to rear other structures from these stores ; but once more resounds again the busy noise of men to furnish forth material for the revived kingdom, many a fresh-cut block lying about the ancient pits intended for the costly palace of King Otho the First.

This marble was thought to surpass even the vaunted Parian in the fineness of its grain, and in whiteness to equal it ; but in the latter quality it is now rather deficient, since much of that used at present is of a greyish hue, sometimes approaching to a tinge of light red.

On ascending, we visited a romantic circular grotto, and enjoyed from the highest summit a prospect at once most extensive

and interesting ; the wide expanse of country to the north-west and west presenting a succession of conically shaped hills rising numberless like huge Tumuli, of a black dreary aspect, though among them flourish grain and the vine.

Southward lay Athens with its plain ; the isles beyond reposing on the bosom of the deep, backed by the lofty frowning outline of the shores of the Morea ; towards the isthmus, the mainland is high, rugged, and barren, preserving the same character, where the coast running southward from the Piræus, rears its bold front to the extreme temple-crowned promontory of cape Colonna ; north and east runs the long varied outline of the dark Negropont, indented with creeks and bays of every shape, while, immediately at our feet, on the same side, are a number of dark undulating lower hills, gradually sloping down on three sides to the plain of Marathon with its simple village. "The mountains look on Marathon and Marathon looks on the sea," along the shore of which it lays being almost of a

crescent shape, six miles in length by two in width in the broadest part ; the whole is without fences, but generally cultivated, with a morass at either extremity.

The Tumulus of the Athenians, about thirty feet high and six hundred in circuit, is towards the southern boundary ; near it are the foundations of a square structure, that formed the trophy of Miltiades. The road to Marathon is easily traversed, and the plain is twenty miles from Athens ; but so long and arduous is the route to Thermopylæ, that we rested content with the knowledge, that its strength as a military position has for ever ceased, since, what formerly was a narrow defile now is become a broad swamp, the sea having retired far, by reason of the alluvial deposit brought down by the river Spercheius. The hot spring whence the pass took its name flows on abundantly.

At the north-western point of the Piano, surrounding the capital, ten miles distant from it, is the renowned fortress of Phylæ still in tolerable preservation, and erected

on a lofty eminence so as to command the road, which is here cut through a deep contracted pass.

A good road westward from Athens, eleven miles in length, leads to the paltry modern village of Eleusis, so famed of yore for the magnificence of its mysteries; while the *via sacra*, along which marched in solemn pomp that imposing procession, was lined with tombs of poets and philosophers; portions of the pavement are distinctly traced, but of the splendid temples of Eleusis, the grandest of which was in honour of Ceres, the vestiges are but few.

Hence is obtained a view of that gulf and glorious isle, the rocky barren appearance of which, though possessing little to attract the eye, must for ever inflame the heart of the coldest, with all the ardour of chivalry, while surveying the immortal spot, where, in the pomp of fancied invincibility, the pride of the East lay assembled as sand on the shore, opposed to the small, indeed, but patriotic force

of Athens, Sparta and Ægina. Lo!
yonder sat the scornful potentate, cast-
ing his raptured glance on his costly arma-
ment glittering in the beams of the rising
orb of day, that orb whose setting rays
served but to tell the Fate of all his short-
lived magnificence ;

“ Pronounce what sea, what shore is this ?

“ The gulf, the rock of Salamis !”

CHAPTER V.

Position, character and authority of the King—Council of state—Subordinate officers of district—Liberal measures—The revenue not applied to improve the country which is still in a wretched, ruinous condition; how expended—Sources of income—System necessary to govern—Extent of the kingdom—Army and navy—Increase of commerce—Agriculture, sad condition and capability of the soil, its produce, government claims, system of farming, implements, thrashing the grain, cattle price of land—Inducements for emigrating to Greece—Price of provisions—Game—Butter how made—Honey of Hymettus—Bad oil and wine—Food of the lower classes—Natural products—Manufactures—Population—Climate—National character—Language—Education, its state and advancement—Mr. Hill's admirable schools—Religion, its doctrines and general ordinance—Clergy, how supported—Poverty and ceremony of the church—Missionaries.

HAVING referred to the scenes of highest importance, as well in the immediate en-

virons, as to those more remote from the city, it remains for me to speak on the present position of Greece, on its products and prospects.

As to the supreme ruler, it must be admitted, that the youthful sovereign is far from popular ; it is even said, so strong is the revolutionary spirit, that his assassination would cause little wonder and is by no means an improbable event ; but in a country circumstanced so peculiarly as Greece, with subjects expecting so great a degree of license, possessing, too, so much elasticity and instability of character, popularity and even the power of rendering the populace contented, are points, the attainment of which is next to impossible.

The private character of his Majesty is excellent ; but, undoubtedly, many of his acts evince, not only want of judgment but an unnecessary degree of severity combined with stubbornness of opinion, so that it is affirmed, with the semblance of reason, that he possesses neither sufficient capacity

to govern aright himself, nor sufficient liberality of sentiment to follow the advice of experienced advisers.

The authority of the sovereign being of an unlimited nature, his office may be deemed as altogether despotic ; but on his accepting the throne, a popular government was guaranteed in the course of time, when extended education and the improved settled condition of the people should have rendered them capable of being entrusted with the exercise of power.

There is now a council of state, containing more than twenty members, appointed by the King, who at least make known the wants of his subjects, if they cannot be deemed to represent them. The kingdom is moreover subdivided into communes of different classes according to their population, each commune being governed by officers equivalent to our mayor, aldermen and council, elected by the male inhabitants who have attained the age of twenty-five years ; each department is held res-

possible for any actions which occur within its proper limits.

Already have measures of a liberal character been granted, as trial by jury and liberty of the press, the only restraint on which is the compulsion of the payment of a certain sum by the editor, in case he should be condemned to be fined for libel and other unjustifiable statements.

In the revenue there is an immense deficit, though of late the income is said to have steadily increased, with a diminution in the expenditure. Millions of loans are sunk with little to shew for them. The government is declared, by a recent report, to be even in a state of bankruptcy, and yet many towns are still almost in ruins. No roads are made, no bridges constructed, no morasses drained, no agricultural improvements undertaken; there is little commercial activity or general security. It is on the Bavarian troops and the cormorant adventurers of his father's kingdom, that enormous sums have been

lavished, though this evil, the source of much discontent among the natives, is at length being fast diminished by the withdrawal of the authors of it.

As to the sources of income, the customs and dues levied in the Port of Syria are the most lucrative branches ; other sources are the heavy imposts on the produce of the soil, the government-lands, the douanes, shops, post-office, and a tax paid for houses erected on the royal districts. Salt-works and mills are monopolies of the sovereign.

Though the position of the executive is fraught with peculiar difficulties, yet a wise protective fostering system of rule can evidently be alone successful in developing, with the prospect of a favourable result, those resources rendered more peculiarly available by the condition and natural advantages of the country, and which, by stimulating and rightly directing the minds of the people, would best promote the desirable object of reviving that national spirit of patriotism which had well nigh

disappeared beneath the Ottoman sway, when grasping Pachas and their venal minions plundered from every quarter, without the slightest pretext of justice or moderation.

The King is anxious to increase his dominions, and should there be a reasonable probability of the permanent establishment of the kingdom, the Ionian Islands may be expected to be added to it, besides Thessaly, and other territories on the mainland, when the no distant day arrives which shall witness the dismemberment of the unwieldy fabric constituting the Turkish empire. The sceptre of Greece extends over the whole of the Morea, a portion of the mainland adjoining Attica, Negropont, and numerous small islands.

The forces are numerically quite insufficient for the protection against foreign powers; indeed, they scarcely suffice, as acting in the capacity of a police, to preserve internal tranquillity. The Albanian costume is the favourite uniform of the soldiers, with the red cap and its blue

tassel. A considerable number of Bavarian troops accompanied the sovereign on taking possession of his throne ; some of these are dismissed, but a portion still remain, thus proving a source of constant discontent to the inhabitants ; though it is to be feared that they are not quite unnecessary as a protection to the crown and person of their sovereign.

The navy includes one or two frigates, steamers, and a few smaller vessels. Commercial enterprise, second only to agriculture in its importance to the prosperity of Greece, is gradually and very considerably increasing ; so that nearly twenty thousand persons are engaged in mercantile pursuits.

The agricultural state of the kingdom, though of such unequalled consequence to its well-doing, is in a sadly low mismanaged course ; far the greater portion of territory belongs to the state. Mr. Strong, in his recent publication, asserts, that not one-ninth is private property. Though much is naturally fertile, yet corn is imported

largely for home consumption, a plan most injurious in its tendency, vast tracts lying waste which are admirably adapted for cultivation, and would, if managed with judgment, yield an excellent return. Though, undoubtedly, many of the districts, formerly of the richest soil, must remain lost for ever, unless large sums be expended in reclaiming them, as they are now only stagnant marshes, in consequence of the ancient emissaries or outlets, many of enormous size and strength, having become entirely choked up during the lapse of time.

It must be confessed that if the poor mountainous regions occupy a widely extended space, some portion is also covered with forests. But with all this, every thing yet remains to be done in order to bring the land into a proper or even fairly remunerating state. Its principal produce includes wheat, barley, and other grain, beans, peas, cotton, flax, rice, gourds, and melons, with the vine and olive, besides plantations of fig, orange, lemon, and mulberry trees ;

but these were most materially diminished during the war. A tenth of the entire crops is claimed by government, by which granaries are erected at fixed intervals for their reception. The tenant is bound to pay the proprietor, by way of rent, half the produce, or two-thirds, provided the latter furnishes seed and cattle.

The whole system of management is very primitive. As to the implements of husbandry, the plough, resembling that used three thousand years ago, is extremely small and simple, being merely one piece of wood with a single handle; the narrow ploughshare is entirely of the same material, or slightly tipped with iron; with this the surface is rather scratched than turned; neither harrow nor roller is often used, and when the former is seen, it is so light that the effect must be rather ideal than real. Manure is rarely, and then most sparingly, applied.

When grain is to be thrashed, it is usually strewn on a rude floor having a post fixed in its centre, to which is tied one

end of a cord, whereby several cattle are fastened abreast and then driven round this post repeatedly, until the rope bringing them gradually nearer to the centre by its coiling, they can move no longer. By this means the grain is literally trodden out, according to the patriarchal custom.

Small oxen, in wretchedly poor order, are usually employed in tilling the soil, by which it is calculated that about one hundred thousand persons are employed. The horses are slight and diminutive, but capable of great labour. There are numerous flocks of half-starved goats, and small long-woolled sheep : these supply milk and butter.

Great advantages are held out to those who might be induced to emigrate to Greece ; and should its prospects wear a more settled aspect, some persons may be induced to avail themselves of the opportunity : even now, a tract embracing many thousand acres, fertile and well-wooded, in Negropont, is possessed by Mr Noel, a relative of Lord Byron, though the insalubrity

of the situation prevents his constant residence on it. The amount paid for the purchase is incredibly trifling.

Before the arrival of the court, land around Athens might be purchased at a few shillings per acre, which realises at this day several pounds: the value of building-ground there has risen from sixpence the square yard to eight times that sum. Among the inducements to reside in this country, the low price of provisions would act as an important consideration: butchers' meat varying from twopence to threepence per pound, while fruits and vegetables are extremely cheap and abundant. A well-fattened turkey costs from two shillings, and the small fowls, from sixpence each. The game includes the red-legged partridge, snipes and woodcocks abounding throughout the country, with pheasants, deer, and wild boar, in particular localities. The former are met with near Missolonghi, but the coasts of Albania and the western shores of the Morea afford excellent amusement to the sportsman in quantity and variety.

Woodcocks are in such excess that we loathed the sight of them at our table ; the price is from sixpence a bird. Lambs are slaughtered so small, that one was served for our dinner as a hare, being scarcely of greater size : it is not the custom to cook either of these animals with the head remaining on them.

The butter is quite white, having a burned flavour ; it is made by simply propelling the material to and fro in a bladder. The honey of Hymettus maintains its classic fame ; amid all the changes of Attica, the Cecropian bees remain in their wonted excellence ; the aroma of the honey is truly delicious, arising from the thyme, whence it is plentifully culled. So highly is this food esteemed, that it was usually especially set apart for the honeyed lips of his Grace, the Archbishop ; but much of the favoured Mount of Hymettus having recently become the property of an Englishman, Mr. Bracebridge, its delicious sweets are no longer the appropriation of the Church.

Owing to ignorance in their manufacture,

the oil and wine are very inferior; the latter is, indeed, almost nauseous, quantities of rosin being mixed with it, not only for the purpose of fining, but to prevent acidity, notwithstanding it is largely consumed by the lower classes of the community, who delight also in garlic, olives, bread, milk, and fruits.

Among the natural products, the mines of copper, lead, and iron must be mentioned, since, though not at present worked, the produce of them has been enormous. Manufactures are in so complete a state of infancy, that they can be scarcely said to exist, if we except the cotton manufactory, wherein the convicts are employed, and thus their labour is turned to admirable account, by preparing clothing for the army from native produce.

The population, though materially increasing is, in the grand total, less than nine hundred thousand. The Morea numbers sixty-three to the square mile; but this district is far the most populous. So salubrious is the climate, generally, that, were

the common comforts of life more prevalent, it would tend much to the longevity of the inhabitants. The translucent clearness of the atmosphere surpasses that of vaunted Italy, and the deep blue sky is seldom clouded, though of course rainy seasons occur, as well as great variety of temperature, according to the variety of localities, and prevalence of mountain and valley.

The character of the people is, as might reasonably be expected, influenced in a high degree, by those erroneous feelings and principles of action which a protracted course of moral and political slavery must ever engender; they are reckless and discontented, but merry and good-natured; fiery and passionate, yet kind-hearted and affectionate: they are moreover so superstitious that charms are constantly worn against the evil eye and other dreaded maladies. Their notorious idleness is mainly attributable to the vast number of those days whereon Religion forbids any servile work, whence arises that fondness for

gambling, dancing, and other amusements, to which they are addicted in so remarkable a degree; they preserve so greatly the ancient name for treachery and cunning, as fully to justify the poet's description,

“Still to the neighbouring ports they waft
 Proverbial wiles, and ancient craft;
 In this the subtle Greek is found,
 For this, and this alone, renown'd.”

Though the Albanians, and especially the Suliotes, have displayed a heroism worthy the proudest days of elder Greece, yet, as a nation, the moderns can boast but little bravery and are so completely mercenary, that we were assured by an aide-de-camp of General Church, who commanded the combined forces against the Turks, in the revolutionary war, that they actually had the base audacity to send a message to that officer, before an approaching engagement with the enemy, to inquire how much they were to be paid for fighting; and when answered, that they would surely gladly risk their lives for the greatly-desired

liberty, so far from doing so, they absolutely refused to draw a sword for freedom and their country, so venal, so debased, is the character of an enslaved, ill-treated race.

The modern language is said to assimilate to the Italian; it is certainly soft, and though the words closely resemble the ancient dialect as our passport will shew,* yet the pronunciation differs so entirely from that to which we had been accustomed, that it was impossible either to comprehend others or be understood ourselves; thus we should readily have fallen into the error of our good German friend, who declared he knew the signification of every word in the English language, and was quite indignant, because I did not immediately comprehend to what he alluded, when speaking of “broth,”

* Βασιλειον τῆς Ἑλλάδος.

Ἐπιτρέπεται εἰς τὸν Κυριον—ἀπέλθῃ ἐλευθέρως εἰς τὴν διοικησιν. Διέρχεται δὲ διὰ τῶν πόλεων—ἢ χωρίων—καὶ συννέγραψε μὲ ἡμᾶς τὸ διαβατήριον. Θέλει δὲ χορηγεῖσθαι εἰς αὐτὸν πᾶσα βεήθεια καὶ συνδρομή. Ἐσημειώθη εἰς τὸ βιβλίον τῶν διαβατηρίων, κ. τ. λ.

which he pronounced "browth," or, because I was unable to catch his application of the word "foolish," for "mad," when on my asking why he carried loaded pistols in so secure a country as Germany, he exclaimed, "O! dere be many foolish dogs about in de summer, dat vould hurt me!"

But even this does not shew the absurdities into which one falls by partially knowing a foreign language so much as a dialogue I heard on the Pincian Hill at Rome, between two Englishmen in search of lodgings, when one pointing to a house, in the window of which was a ticket stating there were apartments to let on the first-floor "primo piano," was about to inquire the particulars of them; but his companion, a thorough John Bull, exclaimed, "Lodgings indeed, there are no lodgings there, but only *piano fortes* to let!"

Education has been so dreadfully neglected, that the whole adult population are involved in the deepest ignorance, so deep, that few can even read or write; and this of course is the fruit, or rather want of fruit, engendered by the revolution, when the

natives were driven from their homes and obliged, for a lengthened period, to take shelter in the mountain caves and the wildest recesses. Much, however, has been already done to remedy this grievous defect, schools being generally established in the larger towns for the lower classes in which the King, highly to his credit, takes a deep interest. But by far the most important establishment in the kingdom for the promotion of extended education, is that conducted at Athens, under the admirable superintendence of the Rev. Mr. Hill, an American Missionary, and his excellent wife, who settled here in the year, 1831, and are venerated and esteemed by all classes; several hundred children are instructed by them, the female part being under the energetic direction of Mrs Hill; these, as well as the boys, are well-dressed, clean and orderly, and well-conducted. Both sects are divided into separate classes, and especial care is taken not to offend national prejudices by interfering with their religious tenets, though the business of the

day is always opened by prayer ; the creed, commandment, and gospel for the day, are also read on every Sabbath.

The children of the higher classes are instructed almost without exception in this admirable school ; and though to the poor scholars the system of teaching is limited, the offspring of the wealthier are informed in those higher branches adapted to their elevated stations. A considerable number of young persons are at this time receiving that extended information, under Mr. Hill's inspection, which will fit them to occupy the situation of teachers in the different native schools.

All religions are freely tolerated : very few persons, however, profess any other tenets than those of the Greek Church, which is in communion with the Patriarch of Constantinople ; and while it generally assimilates to the Romish ritual, it differs from that Church in denying the supremacy and infallibility of the Pope, in its doctrine of consubstantiation, in rejecting purgatory, graven images and indulgences, in allowing

the secular clergy to marry once, in believing the Holy Ghost to proceed from the Father alone, in allowing no right either to future councils or patriarchs to alter any point of faith, in giving extreme unction not only to the dying but also to the sick for restoration and remission of sins ; in administering the Eucharists in both kinds to the Laity. For this rite, water is mingled with the wine, the bread being sopped and then taken from the liquid with a spoon ; the sacrament is not withheld even from infants.

This church acknowledges seven sacraments ; admits oral tradition when confirmed by the seven councils, whose authority it acknowledges, and generally, except in the points just referred to, agrees in the opinion with the latin ritual.

The ceremonies are, if possible, more numerous and absurd than even those of the Romanists whom they bitterly hate. The people, however, scrupulously observe the prescribed rites as well as the long fasts and yet longer festivals ; the latter

occupying more than four months of the year, during which no work is allowed to be performed.

The churches abound in gilding of the most gorgeous description, and in numberless pictures adorned, even more than in Italy, with gold and silver or tinsel ornaments applied not only as chains bracelets, and crowns, but not unfrequently to supply the place of the organs of seeing, hearing and smelling. The emblem of the Holy Ghost is constantly introduced ; all indeed, is pomp and show, whether we regard the endless ornaments, the grandeur of the processions, the splendour of the vestments, the richness of the incense-burning censers, or the blaze of the endless tapers before the pictures of the patron saints, the genuflexions before which approach nearly to perpetual motion. The service, meanwhile, is carried on by vile chaunting in the tone of a most barbarous monotonous twang.

The extravagant amusements, that accompany their feasts, seem to be entered on as

a counterbalance for the strict attendance to the church. The sanctuary of the sacred edifice is divided from the other portion, by a close screen before which burn enormous candles ; and while the men sit in the body of the church, the females are obliged to occupy the gallery so thickly latticed, that scarcely a glimpse of the imprisoned fair ones can be obtained. As regards the principal rites, baptism is administered by immersing the infant thrice in water, confirmation being performed at the same time.

The ceremonies attending a marriage are curious and interesting from their classical associations ; on the day preceding a wedding, the bride elect receives visits from her friends, who inspect the ornaments, gay apparel, jewels, and cachmere shawls for all of which the Greek females exhibit a fondness exceeding, if that be possible, (I ask pardon of the beauteous fair ones) even the damsels of other climes.

The procession to church is headed by musicians, and closed by a group of friends and neighbours ; the affianced one is arrayed

in smart, almost showy garments, while her head is adorned with the elegant golden tissue interwoven among the braids of hair, that ever marks a bride; the happy pair are then conducted to the priest, before whom two rings and as many crowns composed of ribbons, flowers and brocades are placed, both of which are interchanged thrice during the service, between the heads and fingers of the contracting parties, each of whom finally takes possession of one of the ornaments and the chaplets are afterwards suspended in their house, till the demise of the husband or wife.

At the conclusion of the marriage service, several tapers are lighted, and all walk round the place where they are assembled, in formal procession, the bride receiving many kisses before quitting the sacred spot. On returning to the house, a grand fête is given, including feasting, singing, and above all music with the favourite dance of which they are so passionately fond, and which is kept up several hours with scarcely any intermission. The varied motions, combined

with waving and interwaving of handkerchiefs, while the dancers advance or recede and turn round each other, render the Romiska, or national step, peculiarly graceful and elegant.

But amid all these gay festivities, cruel custom compels the bride to sit as an unconcerned spectator, a mere listless automaton, opening neither lip nor eye, as she receives the various contributions and presents, which, in accordance with the prevailing custom, are offered by all the guests.

The funeral rites, like all others, are attended with an excess of gorgeous display ; the cheeks of the pallid corse being often rouged, the eyebrows stained, and the body decked out in jewels and costly apparel to be stripped off, however at the grave, whither it is followed by the friends and neighbours of the departed one, shrieking and bewailing in a manner so violent as to surpass belief.

As concerns ecclesiastical discipline, the number of archbishops and bishops is most unnecessarily great, including a bishop

over each of the islands ; the convents are not unfrequent, though the monks are little respected by the people at large. The grand ruler of the church, who is the patriarch of Constantinople, is elected by the Synod consisting of several archbishops, the nobility, and principal persons among the merchants, citizens and artisans, who thus compose a national assembly and, on certain grounds, could even displace the patriarch, whose election or removal must receive the sanction of the Sultan.

The bishops judge in their respective dioceses on succession, on marriage, and often on purely civil matters ; though there may be an appeal from them to the grand synod by which the archbishops and bishops are elected, who, in their turn, choose the secular clergy.

The income of the Patriarch arises from imposts on wills, from the property of the monks and religieuses who die in his jurisdiction ; also from offerings made on different occasions, especially by the bishops when they enter on their sees.

The archbishops and bishops are independent in matters concerning religion and the administration of civil affairs. Their income is derived mainly from the payment of two golden ducats annually by each ecclesiastic of the diocese, and two-thirds of a Turkish piastre per month (one piastre is equal to twopence-halfpenny) by every family; they also tax marriages, burials, the revenues of convents and churches, a portion of land being usually added besides to their respective sees.

The inferior clergy may marry once, but without being able to attain to any higher rank; the church property having been spoiled by the Turks, they now derive a scanty income from baptisms, funerals, benedictions, prayers, masses, donations, and lustrations of houses, which occur once a month. But so inadequate are these resources, that they are frequently compelled to engage in husbandry or some other business, in order to procure the requisites for subsistence. Their ignorance is lamentable, indeed their stock of learning

includes little beyond the prayers, liturgy, and grammar. They are, however, much respected and, being generally married, are moral, honest, industrious characters. The dress worn in public is a coarse black gown, having long full-straight sleeves and a close-fitting, round, small cap of a similar colour. The beard is suffered to grow to an unreasonable length.

The Russian Church is entirely separated from the jurisdiction of the Patriarch, whose consent was bought by bribes. Thus Russia possesses an establishment governed by its own synod, of which the emperor is the head, having a veto on all points; and this, though seldom exercised, gives a most important influence to the sovereign sway.

Though the tenets of the Eastern Church are certainly not so dark and bigoted as those of her sister of Rome, still it will be seen that even she is wrapped in grievous ignorance, from which, it may however be hoped, that, under the blessings of Providence, she may at length, in these, our days, become gradually awakened by the

enlightening principles of extended education, combined with the strenuous exertions of the excellent missionaries, to whom additional importance is recently given, by the appointment of a Protestant bishop in the Mediterranean, and the ability of still greater influence, by the admirable arrangement of the Malta press, whence have already emanated several publications in the modern Greek, thousands of which are annually sold and distributed gratuitously.

The educational establishment of the missionaries is at Syria, and receives much countenance from the sovereign. It is in flourishing circumstances, and well calculated to counteract that general leaning to infidelity so prevalent in Greece.

CHAPTER VI.

Embark for Alexandria—Expense of the passage—
 Syria, the rendezvous of the packets—Its Lazaretto,
 and that at Malta—Appearance of the Town and
 Island—General features of the Isles in the Levant—
 Those passed on our voyage—Storm—Partial breezes
 in the Mediterranean—Cuisine—Present system of
 Steam Navigation prejudicial to Great Britain—First
 view of Egypt and Alexandria—The two harbours—
 Busy aspect of the chief Port: the edifices around it
 —Reflections on the past and present state of Egypt
 —Striking scene on landing—Hotels—Money—
 Alexandria; its position, population, streets, houses,
 and fortifications—Military bearing and equipments—
 Ruins of the Ancient City—Pompey's pillar—Ma-
 hometan cemetery—Miserable huts and garments of
 the emancipated slaves—Catacombs—Cleopatra's
 needles—Protestant chapel—Route to Rosetta—
 Damietta—Numberless requisites for the Desert—
 Conditions of hiring a servant—Arrangements and
 expense of the voyage to Cairo—Easiest method of
 going thither.

BIDDING adieu to the heroic land, we
 embarked on board a French steamer for

Alexandria, whither the fare for each was seven pounds, exclusive of meals. Having weighed anchor late in the afternoon from the Piræus, we found ourselves next morning at the Island of Syria, the chief rendezvous of the Mediterranean lines of packets. A large airy lazaretto has been, of late, erected there on a gentle slope descending to the sea-shore, that renders this a far more salubrious situation than the Piræus for performing the penance of quarantine, which cannot be avoided in coming from Constantinople and Egypt. The accommodations are so deficient, however, that it is advisable for the wretched incarcerated travellers to bring their own bedding and other comforts, as these can rarely be met with in quarantine save at Malta, which affords conveniences of even a luxurious description and should therefore be selected, if possible, for undergoing that annoying process of imprisonment.

Around the commodious Port of Syria stands a town of some extent, but with

streets narrow and dirty. The aspect of its environs, too, was dreary in the extreme; the land was stony, barren hills generally prevailing, whereon little verdure could be discovered; the stone fences much increasing the sombre monotony of the view. Yet how many a noble scene of bygone days do these isles recal to the mind; for these are "the Isles of Greece, the Isles of Greece"

"Where burning Sappho lived and sung,
Where grew the acts of war and peace,
Where Delos rose and Phœbus sprung;"

These are the isles whereof the raptured poet speaks as "Edens of the Eastern slave," and doubtless their climate is serene and beautiful, the plains being often of unbounded fertility, while in the summer days wild flowers bloom luxuriantly over their craggy steeps; like the fatherland,

"All save the spirit of man is divine."

He neglects the richest gift of nature and

heeds not her genial smiles, by aiding to improve those resources so bountifully offered. This remark applies to the islands throughout the Levant, the general features of which present, in winter and early spring, a scene of dreariness and utter desolation, from being extremely rocky and elevated; the enclosures too are formed of decayed broken walls, wherein are cultivated crops of miserably-yielding green, mingled with vines, olives, figs, oranges, lemons and sometimes with extensive forests.

After changing the steamer, we again set forward on our voyage and were greatly interested by the numerous islands that are dispersed so densely over the face of the sea, passing among others, within full view of Tenos Antiperos Delos and the bold rugged outline of Candia, the ancient Cretes; this part is subject to severe storms,* as I can practically testify, our vessel literally "reeling to and fro like a

* Acts, chapter xxvii.

drunken man," and the waves running mountains high, so as to transform the deep "blue crystal of the sea" into billows of foam. The currents of wind are so partial, that while a brisk gale prevails on one spot, there is often, at an incalculably short distance, so complete a calm that a vessel within its influence remains perfectly motionless.

We were treated with remarkable courtesy by our captain, though the breakfasts consisting of made dishes, fruits, eggs, and sour wines, were little adapted to John Bull's palate; we however, succeeded in procuring tea or coffee, a little lemon juice being the substitute for milk; each person was charged six franks for his daily meals.

I cannot omit to mention the disagreeable reflections that occurred to the minds of many of us during the voyage, in seeing how principal a share of the Mediterranean navigation was in the hands of the French, who at the same time are mainly supported by our own countrymen, of whom far the

majority of the passengers invariably consist. Their steamers being all armed, we are thus maintaining an effective fleet of fine vessels ready on the shortest notice to be used against us. This state of arrangement is, I am aware, not easily remedied, the harbour dues imposed wisely by the French government in foreign vessels being so enormous, that a company of another nation establishing an opposition line would probably lose severely in attempting to run from Marseilles, the grand point of embarkation; still perhaps some arrangement might be made so as to rendezvous, if not at a French port, at least in Malta or Syria, and diverging thence to the ports of the Levant, thus obtain a share of that lucrative traffic now well nigh monopolized by our opponents.

On the morning of the fourth day's voyage from the Piræus we gained a view of the shores of Egypt, low, sandy, and monotonous, with only one slight elevation far as the eye extended. How strangely did they contrast with those wild lofty coasts, whence

we had so lately departed! Soon groves of spreading palm, with Pompey's noble pillar peering above them, relieved the dull sameness, and then the white edifices, tall slender minarets, and all those scenes of an Eastern clime, so wonderously enchanting to an European, lent their unspeakably varying charms to the novel landscape.

Before entering the long harbour, we were boarded by a swarthy Arab for a pilot, the entrance being very hasardous, from reefs of sunken rocks, though when fairly within it, the vessels remain perfectly sheltered; until the arrival of the British army on these shores, Europeans were forbidden entrance here, being limited to the neighbouring harbour on the eastern side, which is at all times attended with danger.

Numerous houses, white and imposing, are erected around the port, besides extensive structures for the stowage of corn or merchandise, and a fine new palace of the viceroy's; add to which several noble

men-of-war belonging to the Pacha lay close to the buildings, much dismantled indeed, but of enormous dimensions, some intended to carry more than a hundred guns; masts of merchantmen from many a land were interspersed, among which the long Egyptian galleys were impelled by their turbaned crews rising from the benches at every stroke of the oars; all these combined to give that striking appearance of peculiarity, importance, and commercial activity, that so well became the unbounded fertility, the enhancing interest, of a country so renowned, from remotest ages, not only in profane but in sacred lore.

In an instant rushes to the mind every stirring incident and mighty work that hath been done in "the land of Ham," from those patriarchal times when proudest Pharaohs were compelled to bow before the mandates of a despised Jehovah, to those later days that witnessed the Holy Child fleeing for protection to Egypt; that saw Cleopatra, vain with the pomp of undaunted

majesty, or Pompey a murdered suppliant; and again, after the lapse of many an age of blood or barbarism, saw the mightiest nations of modern times striving to the death on her yet unsated shores, till now at length she beholds herself at the mercy of a despot stranger, and but as a pathway for that mighty nation, of which, in her era of glory, she knew neither the name nor the existence.

Yes, strange is the consideration of the past and present condition of Egypt to even the most unheedful; not less strange were the objects that presented themselves to the gaze as we first set foot on the landing-place of Alexandria.

Never shall I forget the effect produced on me by the grotesque assemblage of human beings that thronged the quay; never can so motley, so incongruous a group, be again displayed to my sight; the costumes, features, language, general appearance, were all so completely novel. Here resounded the merry laugh of a Greek or the coarse joke of a British tar; there a

turbaned Turk, with grave dignity holding his lengthy pipe, stood an unconcerned spectator ; a troop of swarthy Arabs, their limbs half bared, pressed around us on this side ; on that, black Nubians, with thick pouting lips, pearly teeth, broad flattened nostrils, and woolly raven locks, were commingled in one confused mass, pushing, shouting, each grasping a trunk or bag, till after infinite perplexity, we at last succeeded in gathering, and mounting them all in safety. But on what think you were they mounted ? Not on the backs of porters or even hacks ; but every article of our whole party, then six in number, was piled up, like an enormous pyramid, on the back of one camel that meekly knelt to receive his ponderous burthen.

Thus accoutred, we marched, with the noble animal, through a wearisome succession of narrow, dirty, ill-paved streets, followed meanwhile by a crowd of bullying donkey drivers, who would obstinately persist in thrusting their cattle upon us

till we reached the fine open square surrounded by handsome buildings, among which are two hotels, both good ; but that called de l'Europe was selected, being the cleanest, neatest and most spacious : the table is ample and the charge for board and lodging ten franks per day.

The current money of the country is the para, forty of which equal one piastre : the piastre is usually equivalent to twopence halfpenny, though the standard of value is frequently varied by the Pacha to serve his own tyrannical purposes, depending on the circumstance of his paying or receiving accounts ; the metal is extremely light having an abundance of alloy. The Spanish dollar is estimated at about twenty piastres ; there are also gold and silver pieces of several different sums.

The modern town of Alexandria is situated upon a level strip of land, on the very verge of the desert, between the sea and the large salt lake Marcotis ; it occupies considerable space, the population approaching thirty thousand persons, nearly

all of whom are Mahometans. The part round the square wherein our hotel stands is spacious and airy ; towards the north, where are several good houses, are the residences of consuls and merchants. The streets in the older quarter are not only narrow but most filthy, filled with herds of ferocious dogs resembling jackals, with donkeys and camels laden with piles of bricks, stone or merchandise, sometimes carrying water in wide skins fitted as panniers.

The buildings are antiquated and miserable, flat-roofed as is usual throughout the East ; in this part is an extensive bazaar and slave market. The town is protected on the land side by high stone walls strengthened with a deep fosse and forts mounting cannon.

The military are numerous but unsoldier-like and beggarly, their costume being a white cotton jacket with full sleeves, full white Turkish trowsers of tatters numberless, girded round the waist and gartered with red below the knee ; tight gaiters and

shoes unfit for a beggar ; the fez or red cap of the country, with its tassel of blue silk, the sword depending from the waist and long musket, being the only passable articles about them.

Closely withoutside the walls rise vast mounds of sand and refuse material for building extending over a wide space, covering the enormous ruins of the ancient city ; in the midst of these stands Pompey's pillar of red granite, ninety-eight feet in height, the shaft being formed of one block exceeding sixty-seven feet, the rude Corinthian capital being nearly ten more, and the pedestal fifteen ; the sand covers a portion of its base. It is not known by whom it was erected. A Mahometan cemetery extends close by this column ; in the centre of the flat-stone that covers the corse, is hewn an aperture wherein aloes are planted. The tombs of the males are distinguished by a rudely carved turban sculptured on the top of a low marble slab as usual.

In this, as well as other parts of the suburbs are assemblages of huts, far inferior to pigsties, in comfort and aspect, composed merely of four mud walls, with only a few reeds for a roof, and a contracted hole for the entrance ; in these dwell emancipated slaves besotted in ignorance, men, women and children huddled together begrimed with filth surpassing imagination, and, to cover their nakedness, at most nothing better than a loose thin robe of blue cotton ; the females concealing their face with a long veil of the same.

About two miles westward from the town, immediately on the borders of the sea are the catacombs, of immense extent and intricacy ; the entrance is by a trifling aperture, that leads to a square chamber, having smaller apartments diverging from it, furnished with receptacles for mummies ; beyond are various other excavations of unequal dimensions and elaborate workmanship, prepared with pilasters and divers insignia hewn entirely in the rocky re-

cesses ; but the access to these is laborious, being by low winding passages greatly impeded with sand.

Among the dreary wastes of the Desert, are seen the two obelisks named Cleopatra's needles : these are just to the east of Alexandria, each of one red granite block, about seventy feet high and exceeding seven feet square at the base, much of which lies buried beneath the mounds of sand, which, by its drifting, has nearly obliterated the hieroglyphics on three sides, while that facing the sea remains uninjured, displaying numberless characters, exquisitely carved, to the depth of an inch ; of these splendid obelisks, both nobler than those now at Rome, one is prostrate and has been offered by the Pacha to the English ; but the estimated expense of removal being fifteen thousand pounds, it was suffered to stay unheeded by our calculating countrymen who were in power.

During my sojourn here, I enjoyed the privilege of hearing the Protestant worship

in the neat little chapel wherein service is regularly performed : it is attended by a few British and American merchants constant residents here, in addition to the immense number of Indian passengers who are continually spending a short period at Alexandria.

In order to visit Rosetta, a wide sandy waste must be traversed, passing, in the neighbourhood of the Bay of Aboukir, over that memorable field where fell the brave Abercrombie. The population of Rosetta exceeds twenty thousand, and there is an appearance of activity in many storehouses. The general semblance of the place, its streets, and houses, is described as extremely wretched. Neither is Damietta to be preferred, though a town of important commerce, its position near the Nile and the sea being most favourable for traffic. Among other things, rice is a principle article of export, which grows in the environs, of the finest quality.

Having decided on reaching the Holy Land by way of the Desert, there being no steam communication thither, and the small

trading vessels being not only comfortless but, in the winter months, attended with no trifling danger, it was resolved to lay in a stock of those many requisites for passing the dismal wastes, which, we learned, could be procured at a sea-port, far better than in the capital; but not knowing how to proceed in making the needful purchases, the first step was to engage a servant well informed on the subject, who had previously visited Palestine, and would undertake to act as cook and interpreter. A Greek possessed of excellent testimonials being recommended, we agreed to pay him a dollar per day, and as our party consisted of six, an American having joined us, a native was hired in addition to act as a second, who received daily nearly two shillings; to both back-fare was guaranteed, provided they were discharged at a distance from their homes, and no other person could be found willing to engage them.

So desirous were we to enjoy ourselves, which we thought could be best attained

by that comprehensive expression "making ourselves comfortable" that we armed ourselves in panoply against all contingencies; and though nothing was bought that could be deemed in any way extravagant, several of the articles, indeed, being second hand, yet the cost amounted to at least nine pounds for each of the party; it included two marquees and a small tent, all worse for wear, mattresses, pillows, sheets and coverlets, six dozen of wine and spirits, ammunition for the sportsman, medicine for the sick, dried tongues, hams, cheeses, maccaroni, rice, oranges, figs, tea, coffee, sugar, candles, lanterns, knives, forks, spoons, cups, mugs, pots, pans, kettles, crockery-wares and culinary articles of divers sorts and sizes, with a plentiful supply of charcoal to render them subservient to their multiform uses, in fortifying the inner man. The whole was stowed in four large strong hampers made of split footstalks of the palm. Thus were our chattels ordered "in the days when we went gipsying."

The next business was to procure a sufficient store of the sinews of war to carry us to Beirout, where a further supply might be obtained; we then bargained for clean large boats to convey us to Cairo at seventy shillings for each of us, agreeing to be towed by horses in a covered barge as far as the Nile. The boats were the property of Waghorne and Co., and we subsequently discovered that the charge, as usual with that company, was exorbitant; though by this means vexatious delays were avoided: the means of transit are always awaiting those passengers who avail themselves of Waghorne's vessels. The most expeditious mode of proceeding to the Egyptian capital is by the small steamer that plies from Alexandria, thither in communication with the steamers of the Oriental Company.

CHAPTER VII.

Mahmoudie canal, its advantages—Atfe—Boats for our voyage, their accommodation, vermin, sails and crew—Food, its sorts and cheapness—Eggs—Pleasures and hazards of a voyage on the Nile—Sporting—Variety of birds and different animals—The Nile—Appearance of the country—Villages—Soil—Rise of the Nile—Foundation and commentary on Scripture—Dews—Crops, their varieties, rapidity of growth—Their harvests produced annually from the same land—Relative condition of crops the same as during the plague of hail—Machines for irrigation—Extreme wretchedness of the Arab huts—Aspect and dress of their inhabitants—Food—Occupation of the females and care used in concealing their features—First glimpse of the Pyramids—Boulac—Arrival at Cairo.

BEING anxious to hasten our departure, in consequence of the plague prevailing in the town, we started early in the morn-

ing on the splendid canal called the Mahmoudie connecting the Nile with the sea and the great port ; it is sixty miles long, being generally ninety feet wide, by twenty in depth, and was cut, in one year, by Mahomet Ali, who compulsorily employed one hundred and fifty thousand persons on the work at a shamefully low rate of wages, of whom thirty thousand perished during the progress of excavation, from severity of labour. It runs through a wide level, at one time little better than a marsh, but so admirably drained by this vast canal as to be now rendered abundantly fertile.

Passing several villages, with their low flat mud huts, besides two or three manufactories, we arrived late in the same evening at the town of Atfe situated at the junction of the artificial stream with that of the Nile. Here we slept in a tolerable inn, and, the following morning, embarked on the bosom of the eternal and majestic river. The boats provided for us were three, the smaller ones being fitted with one cabin only, on

a level with the deck, but the larger one having two divisions, the grandest of which had a bench on either side, of length and width for spreading a mattress, with just enough space in the centre for a table, around which six persons could sit. In this state cabin we took our meals, read, or chatted, according to inclination, smoking withoutside on its flat roof; an awning was, moreover, raised on deck, to obstruct the scorching rays of the mid-day sun.

So stocked are these vessels with fleas, bugs, flies, mice, rats, and other human tormentors, that it is advisable to have them not only washed but even sunk, before hazarding a voyage; for no sooner do the shades of evening commence, than in countless numbers they commence their depredations on the bodies of the soft-skinned Europeans, with the extreme virulence of an eleventh plague; so that unless due precaution be taken to avoid the company of the first-mentioned creatures,

vain indeed is it to hope for even a moment's repose, for when all has been done that the feeling ingenuity of a tortured martyr can devise, he must always compound for a portion of fleas and, at a certain season, of flies and mosquitoes, though rats mice and scorpions, may be effectually ousted from their dens.

Our boats were equipped with the long elegant latteen sails used in the Mediterranean : these are fixed to a spar, often sixty feet in length, which plays by a pivot on the top of a short stout mast.

The Arab crews, dirty, bare-legged, scarcely covered even with rags, were yet cheerful and active, swimming like ducks, and jumping constantly into the water to push off the lingering barks, when they grounded on the sand-banks that at times so impeded the navigation.

The sailors' food was truly simple, being composed of the flat spongy Arab bread, of corn and meal, of beans, garlic, dates, and their favourite rice, round a huge dish of

which, mingled perhaps with other trifling ingredients, they would squat together, and thrusting in their begrimed hands, filthy as though their ablutions were at most but an annual ceremony, each would seize as much as he could grasp, and thus convey it to his mouth.

But deem not that we fared precisely thus, for though a dragoman, as our *maître d'hôtel*, or head servant, importantly styled himself, never fails to lighten the pockets of his employers, by a per centage made on every purchase, yet food is so cheap in this country, though far dearer in Lower than in Upper Egypt, that we paid our servant only at the rate of twopence halfpenny per pound for very young lamb, still less for beef and mutton, fourpence a chicken, one penny for eight or ten small eggs, and a trifle for excellent milk and butter; the latter was, it must be confessed, however, plentifully stocked with dirt, the native dairy-maids not being remarkably particular, probably washing their hands about

as often as our crews. We had no fish, but the picturesque little rafts used by the Arabs in their capture were seen: they are formed of a few palm-leaves placed across a number of large gourds, or earthen jars, fastened together, so arranged as to be wide at the stern, but brought to a point at the opposite extremity.

Of all articles, the eggs were most abundant, and though not esteemed always wholesome, we devoured them in various shapes constantly and without prejudice. They rarely exceed the bantam's egg in size, for which peculiarity, we, knowing that the hens were from chicken artificially hatched, could more readily account, than was the case with a more genuine John Bull than ourselves, who, on observing purple eggs exposed for sale on the Rhine, a common custom at Easter, demanded what they could be, and on being told, exclaimed, in most wondrous amazement, "Eggs! what, those eggs! why, what colour, then, can the hens be?"

A voyage on the Nile, except as regards nocturnal depredators, is universally allowed to be of a most agreeable, exhilarating nature ; and, aided by a few pleasant companions and books, most enhancingly delightful ; but beware of fevers, agues, or ophthalmia, from which, if the traveller would escape, let him carefully avoid exposure to the severe dews and cold of the evening, that succeed the mid-day heat, which, even in February, is excessive and necessarily prejudicial ; but, then, the sky is of the deepest blue and utmost transparency ; there is no rain, except near the coast, to annoy or prejudice, and the setting of the glorious orb of day diffusing, over the whole western horizon, a deep fiery red, varying into lighter tints towards the zenith, in unequalled gradations, affords a never-failing source of wonder and loveliness.

Much time was pleurably spent during the voyage in walking by the river-side, where the guns being called into requisition,

my brother's skill, with that of the other sportsmen, furnished many a hearty meal. Several of the birds were unknown; but wild ducks, of different species, some peculiar to the country, literally swarmed; also geese, teal, snipes, and other descriptions of water-fowl.

Numberless flocks of blue pigeons, hawks of strange kinds, plovers, kingfishers, the handsome crested hoppoe, quails and partridges alike fell before the unerring Mantons; the latter birds were rather less than those in England, adorned with beautiful plumage, the wing feathers of a golden brown, barred with black, the breast being entirely of a dark colour.

Storks waded early and late in the shallower portions of the stream, and that elegant tame bird, with its plumage of the purest, most delicate whiteness and tall slender neck and legs, frequented the newly turned soil.

In addition to these birds, there is the sacred ibis; but that is said to haunt only the lower districts around Damietta.

Of animals there are the hyenæ and jackal, but the hippopotamus and crocodile only frequent Upper Egypt and the regions south of it. Ichneumons are plentiful, as is also the scorpion.

When pursuing our sport, we ventured to a considerable distance from the boats, for, by using common prudence, there is no hazard either of fear or insult ; so strict is the discipline of the present Pacha, so dreaded is his unlimited power.

The Nile not only varies considerably in width but meanders in its course ; yet it is in all parts a noble stream, though, after the subsidence of the water, the banks are, of course, not only high but sandy and bare where they descend immediately to the water's edge : the papyrus is still found on the Damietta branch, but the croaking of its frogs must be, at least, as universal, if not quite so frequent, as in the time of the despotic persecutor of Joseph and the despised Israelites.

The general feature of the country is flat and monotonous in the extreme, relieved

only by the frequent plantation of palm-trees, their long rough tapering stems are crowned with a few branches, or gracefully spreading nodding leaves, the dates growing in clusters at their extremity.

Beneath these groves stand the paltry mud huts that form the villages, erected on a rather elevated site in order to escape the inundations, each adorned with a white slender minaret, many too, having dove-cotes, tall and tapering, fitted with a number of earthen pots not unlike a honeycomb, so placed for the birds to build their nests in them, which are kept for the sake of the dressing.

The soil on the borders of the river is of exuberant fertility, owing to the quantities of richest mud annually brought down by its waters, from the heavy rains prevailing at certain periods within the tropics; the usual rise of the Nile is twenty-four feet, commencing in the middle of June and subsiding in October. The land lies usually in a gradual descent from the

banks, causing irrigation to be extensively practised, the water being conveyed, by means of the multitude of canals and trenches that intersect the country, from the higher ground to more remote parts. Some smaller enclosures, as gardens or trifling allotments, are subdivided into squares, having trenches between them, which are opened when the intervening beds are required to be inundated, and thus a supply of water is procured, by simply making an opening in the raised side of each division with the foot, according to the words of scripture, "The land whither thou goest in, to possess it, is not as the land of Egypt, whence ye came out, where thou sowed'st thy seed, and watered'st with thy foot, as a garden of herbs."*

Though the dews are great, yet as neither rain falls nor the sun ceases his burning heat, the soil would, without this grateful supply, be completely parched and barren. Little attention is shewn in the process of

* Deuteronomy, chap. xi., v. 10.

cultivation. In February beans were the principal produce, and flourished in the utmost luxuriance. They were then in small pots, and are sown in vast quantities, as provender for camels especially. Corn, barley, rye, peas, hemp, flax, lucerne, cotton, with a variety of gourds and melons, are also grown in this district. Rice flourishes in the low lands towards the coast, but coffee and the sugar-cane are planted in Upper Egypt. The crops arrive at maturity in a short period ; the power of the sun's rays, the genial climate, and thick coating of mud, tend almost to give the efficacy of a hot-bed to the exuberant soil.

The land, naturally inundated, is sown only once a year usually, and that is after the subsidence of waters. But the tracts subjected to artificial inundation will annually yield three crops, being first sown at the same period as the districts above mentioned with wheat or barley ; a second time, after the vernal equinox, with indigo, cotton, millet, or some similar produce ; and

again, about the summer solstice, with millet or maize.

I was much pleased that during my visit the state of the crops fully accorded with their relative condition in the time of Moses, during the plague of hail, for "the barley was in the ear, and the flax was bold," when I saw them, and would therefore be smitten; but "the wheat and the rye would not be smitten, for they were not grown up."* Gratifying too was it to be informed, that the custom referred to in Ecclesiastes, "Cast thy bread upon the waters, for thou shalt find it after many days,"† is now illustrated by the agriculturist casting his seed on the mud before the water has quite subsided; afterwards a little dry mould is usually spread over it by hand.

The machine used for irrigation, so frequently erected on the banks of the Nile, must excite curiosity. It is composed of a

* Exodus, chap. x. v. 31, 32.

† Ecclesiastes, chap. xi. v. 1.

vertical wheel, round which are fastened two parallel cords, reaching a little below the surface of the stream; to these are attached, at equal distances, earthen pots, which fill successively by dipping into the water as the wheel revolves, discharging their contents, when raised to the highest point, into a trough, from which the fluid is carried by a trench to the intended locality. But in order to set this wheel in motion, a smaller vertical wheel, with cogs, is fastened to the opposite end of the same axis, it being from six to eight feet in length, and in a horizontal position; with it is a third and larger cogged wheel, which, being turned by oxen or cows, sets the two first in motion.

At spots more remote, spacious pits are dug to receive the water, whence it is drawn up by a simple machine formed of two upright posts, with a horizontal bar between them, to which is affixed a lengthy lever, having a vessel at its smaller extremity; this being filled by lowering and

raising the pole, then discharges itself into a trough placed for the purpose.

The Nile is not only of immense importance as a fertilizer and means of communication, but its water is highly esteemed as a beverage ; since though at first thick, of a yellowish cast, it will speedily clarify on standing in a vessel : it not unfrequently attacks the bowels, and therefore requires to be drunk in moderation.

Reference has already been made in a slight degree to the dwellings of the natives. In describing them more minutely as well as the dresses and customs of the Egyptians prevalent throughout the land, I must acknowledge my obligation to that admirable work, Lane's *Modern Egyptians*, as that whence many valuable hints have been drawn.

So similar are the principal habits in Egypt, Palestine, and Turkey, from identity of religion and rule, that they will be described in general under the observations

on the former country, and I shall leave those points wherein they differ to be mentioned in their proper place.

As regards the aspect of the villages we witnessed, their loathsomeness can alone be equalled by the wretchedness of those who inhabit them, both giving a complete idea of extreme concentrated essence of misery. The huts are most confined in height and size; the walls are formed of unbaked bricks, coated with a composition of mud, mixed with chopped straw; the flat roof is smeared over with the same material and consists of leaves of palm, or stalks of millet, laid upon rough rafters. So low is the entrance, that one must almost creep into the interior, which contains at the utmost but two chambers, there being usually at the upper part an aperture for the admission of light, and egress of smoke, and at the end of one of them is a wide oven, the top of which serves as sleeping quarters during winter, for the sake of warmth.

The natives are in appearance well-made. The men are of moderate stature, small-boned, active, muscular, and capable of enduring fatigue; they permit the beard to grow below the chin, though not to an excess. It is curious to remark, on uncovering the head, that while the remainder is completely shorn, one long tuft is left on the crown. This practice is attributed to the idea that, if slain in battle by an infidel, he might, were there no hair to grasp, thrust his unhallowed hand into the mouth of the faithful, in order to bear it off; others assert, that by this tuft the Mussulman expects to be dragged into Paradise.

The women are rather tall, their figures beautifully formed and erect, by reason of the water-pitchers that are carried constantly on the head. From the nature of the climate, they, however, speedily impair, becoming, before they attain the age of thirty years, absolutely hideous, although in earliest youth they are frequently hand-

some. They have an oval countenance, eyes small, but black, and of piercing brilliancy, the nose straight, with prominent forehead, and teeth of pearly whiteness; the complexion is quite dark, gradually becoming of deeper shade, towards the south. The hair is not only black but somewhat crisp.

The change from a wandering life to a settled state of existence has occasioned, in the course of time, strongly marked points of distinction between the Arabs of the Desert and these of the land of Ham.

The dress of the lower class is the red cloth cap, or fez, with the pendant blue tassel, and a handkerchief rolled round as a turban, the colours of which mark it from that of the Copts or Jews, who wear black or grey. Their garments are of the simplest description, often merely a loose plain blue shirt, open at the bosom, but confined at the waist by a belt or scarf; frequently they have no shoes, nor even drawers; but in the winter a coarse rude

cloak of canvass, or rather sackcloth, marked with alternate stripes of white and brown, is thrown over them.

The poorest among the women are habited in a long blue cotton robe with full sleeves, tied round the neck, but slit down the front, and girdled at the waist. The feet, when not bare, are protected by slippers of brown or yellow leather. Except a narrow aperture for the eyes, the entire face is concealed by a long strip of the same material as the robe, depending nearly to the ground, or at least below the middle, from the forehead, where it is affixed to a kerchief wound round the head.

The assertion of the poet,

"Man wants but little here below,
Nor wants that little long ;"

should much rather be changed to "thick," if applied as a measure of length, and to the garments of these degraded objects, their thin gown scarcely concealing the form of the wearer. Still they betray,

miserable as they are, that ruling passion of the sex, a love for ornaments, most of them wearing trumpery gilt finery, necklaces, earrings and bracelets, as in the time when the Israelites borrowed their "jewels of silver and gold." The eyelids are, moreover, blackened with a powder called kohl, produced by burning the shell of almonds, or a cheap frankincense. Several parts of the body, as the forehead, chin, arms, hands and feet, are tattooed in fanciful shapes of a blue, or greenish hue.

Leaves of the henna, too, are also applied to the nails, and sometimes to other portions of the feet and hands, which stain them of a yellowish-red colour.

The food taken by persons of the above description is of the simplest order. A bread of maize, sometimes mixed with the meal of peas or millet, milk, cheese, butter, eggs, rice, and fish. Meat is rarely eaten; but melons, cucumbers, and gourds are largely consumed, besides garlic, leeks,

onions,* beans, lupins, and dates. Some have little besides bread, garlic, milk and fruits. They all are addicted to smoking the cheap, mild tobacco of the country, and to drink rakkee, a potent spirit, extracted from dates, strongly flavoured with anniseed.

To the age of four or five years, the children often run about in a state of nudity; when carried they sit a-straddle across their mothers' shoulders perched up like monkeys. We saw several in this singular position, while the women were carrying their high pitchers to the river side; others busily occupying themselves in beating the ragged garments of which the entire wardrobe is composed.

It was amusing to observe how carefully they would screen every feature as we passed along, being forsooth far more particular in concealing the face, especially when they were remarkably ugly, of which

* Numbers, chap. xi. v. 5.

we could form a fair judgment by the age and carriage, than the remainder of the body.

Much time is spent by the females in spinning and more laborious occupations; by them the fuel is made, being the dung of cattle mixed with chopped straw and then formed into flat cakes, which by being fastened to the hut's walls becomes speedily dry and fit for use. Wood is extremely scarce, and therefore rarely used as an ordinary article for fires.

Such were the novel scenes witnessed during the four days spent so agreeably in our voyage on the mighty river. During this time the wind often proved contrary, and our sleeping quarters being in three boats, we stopped for the night that the days might be spent in each other's society. On the afternoon of the fourth day, having passed the two grand subdivisions of the Nile that form the Delta, we caught a first glimpse of the Pyramids and eternal Desert; then sailing by the fine summer palace of the Viceroy on the

eastern bank, we speedily came to anchor at the busy flourishing town of Boulac, the port of Cairo, where were many small trading vessels unlading or in the course of construction, besides two steamers. Immediately mounting on excellent donkeys there waiting for hire, we proceeded at a pleasant ambling pace to the capital about two miles distant.

CHAPTER VIII.

Hotels—Hiring unfurnished lodgings—Cairo, its position, population, imposing air at a distance, real condition—Narrow streets—Full description of the houses—Astonishment excited by the peculiarities of dresses and customs—Procession of a harem—Bazaar—Slave market resembling a mart for cattle—Price of the slaves according to ages and country—The citadels, its buildings—Public baths—Mosques—Tombs of the Caliphs—Museum of antiquities—Difficulty of procuring them—Petrified forest.

THE first business on reaching Cairo was to seek accommodation at the large hotel kept by Hill, but though extremely capacious, so crammed was it by a host of our compatriots on their outward or homeward bound voyage to or from India, that but one room could be assigned for our entire party of six. The daily charge for each

person, exclusive of wine or servants, being ten shillings. There is a much smaller and less expensive hotel where we dined, that also was full. No alternative remained therefore, except to go into lodgings, and after considerable trouble we succeeded in engaging three bed-rooms with a kitchen, over the Bazaar, at the rate of four shillings and sixpence per day ; but being unfurnished we had to hire, in addition, chairs, tables, and bedsteads, some of the latter being simply low wooden 'crates of wicker-work, two feet in height. Such was the grandeur of our private apartments in Cairo the Grand !

This city stands midway between the Nile and the mountain range of Moockuttum, having a population exceeding two hundred thousand, surrounded by walls and protected by a lofty citadel towards the south. It is altogether most truly oriental, highly imposing at a distance, from the domes and slender graceful minarets, that rise densely on all quarters, but too fair, too bright to last. .

On entering, the fairy vision of beauty fades away from the view, for save an open part within walls, and the solitary, very handsome spacious square planted with avenues, that is traversed on approaching the city from Boulac, and two or three streets sufficiently broad to admit the carriage of the Viceroy, nought is seen but an endless labyrinth of dark dirty alleys, scarcely wide enough, with very few exceptions, to allow two mules laden to pass each other.

The houses also are of extreme altitude, the walls on the ground floor are fronted with soft stone, and those above are formed of burnt bricks coated with plaster, projecting two feet over the bottom story; thus the windows on the opposite sides nearly meet, effectually excluding the rays of the sun; which in summer is imperiously necessary. Where the streets are, consequently, more spacious, coolness is preserved by a canvass awning stretched across from the roofs of the houses, which are flat and plastered

used during the hottest days as a dormitory; whence arises much of the ague and ophthalmia, that so lamentably prevails. The windows looking upon the thoroughfares are fronted with wooden lattice work, commonly of a diamond pattern, so close as effectually to screen the inmates from public gaze. Almost every large house has an open court in the centre, into this the principal apartments face the most spacious, of which that on the ground floor is appropriated for the reception of male visitors, being fitted up with a fountain in its centre and lined, in the important edifices, like the pavement with coloured marbles. Round three sides of the room runs a divan furnished with soft cushions; the raised portion of the floor is covered by a mat or carpet; the part adjoining the door being a few inches lower, and here the shoes are slipped off. The walls of the rooms are frequently adorned with scrolls, Arabic inscriptions, and rude paintings of flowers, and various devices, executed without

the slightest regard to perspective. The kitchen is provided with small hearths, but the remainder of the house is warmed by charcoal placed in a large shallow pan.

Though the dwellings afforded much amusement by their peculiar construction, and though the novel scenes, on landing at Alexandria, had filled us with wonder and delight, how immeasurably was that astonishment increased in our survey of this, the first Arab city in the world. It was not alone the strangeness of the edifices and streets, it was rather the extraordinary, the wonderful appearance of the jostling crowds busily moving along them, so infinitely more national than could be witnessed at a seaport town, that lent so engrossing an interest to every changeful glance ; for here all who were decently attired boasted the long handsomely ornamented Turkish pistols fixed in the girdle, the dreaded scimitar dangling at their side and occasionally a lengthy Arab gun slung at the back ; strings of camels laden with skins for water, build-

ing materials, or bales of merchandise mingled with ambling donkeys bearing a party of staring Europeans, stores of vegetables, or the entire hide of a goat, carried in this manner, or else affixed behind the shoulders of an Arab, to the anxiously expecting natives.

A grandee of proud contemptuous mien, mounted on his fiery Arab steed, now crossed our path, his long pipe borne by a running slave, but the ample scarf encircling his own waist, adorned with magnificently silver-chased pistols, the horse richly caparisoned with its massive costly bridle, and saddle-cloth of red bedizened with decorations in divers coloured work ; the saddle itself of huge dimensions, similarly ornamented, having an immense hump before and behind ; the stirrups large as a firepan, and not much dissimilar in shape.

A Harem was frequently threading its way through the crowd, attended by the usual concomitant, a black slave ; the ladies mounted astride on mules in saddles of enormous size and height, habited in their

peculiar garb, their long yellow boots and veils closely screening the features, while one went before to make way with his staff, among the countless Babel of complexions, sizes, and languages, of buyers and venders, Arabs and Nubians, English and Turks; the latter of whom sat smoking cross-legged, most unconcerned spectators on the raised boards of the endless lines of small shops constituting the bazaar of the city. Here articles of a similar kind are invariably arranged together, thus there is first a street of costly Persian shawls, another of cotton goods, a third of silks, a fourth of slippers, then of fire-arms and side-arms, then of pipes and tobacco, and so on, extending to an incalculable distance; though even this is far surpassed by the exhibition at Stamboul, not only in the beauty, but in the quantity of things exposed for sale.

To the slave market the same observation will equally apply, for though so deeply revolting to an European, it is a sight which is never omitted to be witnessed. In a

spacious quadrangular court, enclosing a range of dark chambers or rather dens, are enclosed a number of human beings penned in to be sold like cattle to the best bidder ; they are closely huddled together, clad usually in only a few rags, portions of which, as well as the veil, are stripped off when exhibited to a supposed purchaser, who minutely examines their legs, arms, breast, ears, eyes and so forth, as a butcher would do in buying cattle.

These wretched creatures are generally young and healthy, and include a large number of Nubian girls ; others too come from Sennaar or Abyssinia, a few are white complexioned ; of the males some are emaciated, rather advanced in age ; they are decoyed away by artifice, or stolen from their native land for base traffic, realising, according to age and health, from five pounds, to fifteen or twenty pounds each ; but the whites as Georgians and Circassians are sold for large amounts, not unusually between one hundred and two hundred pounds.

Though the idea of human traffic is ne-

cessarily most odious to Europeans, we could not avoid observing the seeming cheerfulness of the beings exposed for sale ; this it is said their owners compel them to assume, and being once captured, they would doubtless rather find a purchaser, than be exhibited in this wretched mart for humanity. They are, moreover, when bought, usually well-treated, and somewhat protected by the laws as will be hereafter mentioned ; numberless are the instances wherein persons have risen from slavery to fill the highest offices. Yet, it needs not the eloquence of a Wilberforce to induce the utmost abhorrence of a custom alike revolting to the dictators of reason and justice, nay, even to the most blunted feelings of our nature, independent of those purer, holier motives by which a Christian must ever be actuated ; but such an argument could never enter the bigoted mind of a disciple of Mahomet, since, in this country, children may be sometimes seen publicly carried about the streets for sale.

Having surveyed the central quarters of the town, our next expedition was through a labyrinth of winding streets to the spacious commanding citadel, which is well fortified with cannon mounted on the bastions. It contains a mint, where is shewn the simple process of cutting and stamping coin, a foundery and a capacious mosque in course of erection, having much elaborate carving and polished columns of the coarse porous alabaster from Upper Egypt. There is besides a handsome Government house with its spacious hall of audience; the spot where the Mamelukes were so treacherously slain, is also pointed out, and an extremely deep well called Joseph's.

The prospect hence embraces the entire city, the Nile bounded by the dreary wilds and the Pyramids, while to the north-east extends the fruitful district of Goshen, far away towards the promised land. Throughout the city, public baths abound; the mosques too are plentiful, one of them sur-

rounded by a lofty dome is particularly handsome ; its walls are profusely bedecked with marbles, porphyry and drab scrolls, while lamps and ostrich eggs with other ornaments depend from the roof.

The Copts, or ancient inhabitants of Egypt, are a Christian sect governed by a Patriarch, who have several churches and convents. There is also a chapel, wherein the church of England service is regularly performed ; but of all the hallowed sites, the ancient tombs of the Caliphs far exceed others in interest, for though suffered to fall into decay they are still strikingly imposing, the lofty Domes being minutely carved, the cloisters grand and extensive.

We were forbidden to enter the tombs until our shoes were taken off, and when I once stepped on a mat used for prayer, I was told by the Mussulman who held my shoes, that having been so direfully polluted by a christian dog, it could never after be knelt on by the faithful.

A valuable collection of the antiquities of the country, may be seen in the city, admission to which is obtained with greater facility, from Mrs. Gliddon the obliging official representative of the United States, than through our own consul, Mr. Walne; but the most complete assortment of this description I ever witnessed is at Berlin, where are concentrated not only the ordinary antiques but those of a more minute and rarer description, down to the trifling utensils for sacred and profane purposes, with ornaments of every imaginable kind, not omitting a Pharaoh's braces.

To procure genuine articles of antiquity that possess intrinsic value, is difficult, so completely of late years has Egypt been ransacked by a host of curiosity hunters; if the Upper Province be not visited, ordinary relics may occasionally be procured at Sacchara, from the vicinity of the catacombs; there I purchased Scarabæuses, the artificial eyes of the mummies, as well

as their natural limbs, such as feet and hands, which for aught we know

“The rod of Empire might have swayed,”

There too are specimens of the diminutive blue glazed images of earthenware, which are found in the mummy cases, covered with hieroglyphics; these cost me on the spot half a piastre, the price demanded for a similar article in Vienna being several shillings. Such notorious relic hunters are the English, that they will collect, with utmost diligence, even the decayed mummy bandages, that lay scattered about the catacombs and the minute dust, that once was an embalmed Ibis.

The petrified forest is an object of peculiar interest: it is distant from Cairo six or seven miles, in the midst of the sands. There fragments of trees lie densely strewed over a wide extent of surface, the colour externally is black, variegated within by grey or red, the knots and bark are clearly discernible and the frequent specimens of palm-trees are known by their round pa-

rallel fibres ; the majority of the fragments are small, though some measure three feet, others more, and a few twelve or fourteen, which from their size and position must have once formed a tree eighty feet in length.

CHAPTER IX.

Preparations for reaching Sacchara—Vast cemetery—Mausoleum of Mahomet Ali—Supposed insult to the Koran revenged—Site of Memphis—Encampment for the night—Arab guard—Pilfering character of the natives—Pyramids of Sacchara—Scarabæus—Vast Necropolis of Memphis, its desolation—Catacombs for mummies—Excavated shrine—Ibis' pits—Pyramids of Djiza, description of that of Cheops, adventure in it with the guides—Sphynx—Excavated chambers—Artificial process of hatching chickens—Isle of Rhoda, its garden—Nilometer—Spot where Moses was found—The Khalis—Pacha's summer palace on the Nile, his stables—Season too far advanced for visiting Upper Egypt—Number of English at Cairo—Great advantages of this route to India—Additional facilities suggested.

HAVING inspected the lions and their cubs, which are most renowned in the neighbourhood of Cairo, we passed near

the spot where Joseph and Mary rested or dwelt for a time with the Holy Child Jesus. We next resolved to visit without delay those eternal memorials of older times, the stupendous Pyramids ; but in order to survey them all, one night must be spent in their locality ; taking therefore our tents, arms and provisions, and mounted on donkeys, we left the busy streets at an early hour for the pyramids of Sacchara, distant about fifteen miles. No sooner had we crossed the gateway, proceeding southwards, than we entered on the sandy wastes, to which every portal, except that leading to Boulac, immediately opens.

Traversing a wide space, occupied with cemeteries, a few structures crowned with domes, the memorials of departed greatness, being interspersed amid the humbler graves, we soon arrived at the grandest and most costly mausoleum, that erected by the present Pacha, the walls of which are of stones quite massive and surmounted by three or four low domes. All without-side is plain, but the floors within are

strewn with rich Turkey carpets ; the square or rather oblong tombs, ranged on both sides of the apartments, are carved elaborately in red, yellow, or other colours, with Arabic scrawls or sentences from the Koran. These tombs are to the memory of the wives or children of the Viceroy ; that raised to his favourite wife being conspicuous, a vacant spot is pointed out as selected for the potent governor's final rest.

A ponderous copy of the Koran is laid in one of the recesses. This was touched by one of our party accompanied by a remark eliciting a smile ; at this the Mahometan guide looked so angered, that I verily believe he would have stilettoed the infidel dogs on the spot, and hung and quartered them into the bargain, with the most supreme delight, for which worthy act he might reasonably expect from the considerate Prophet an addition, *ad libitum*, to the usual trifling allowance of seventy-two blooming Houris, that await each one of the Faithful in the fairy realms of bliss.

Proceeding on our way, we soon arrived at the bank of the Nile, and after being ferried over, entered an extensive wood of palms, passing the supposed site of that once noblest of cities, the vast, the wealthy Memphis. Alas ! the only remnant of bygone times is one colossal statue, prostrate on the sand, much mutilated, though the features are yet tolerably preserved.

Pitching our tents towards evening, beneath the spreading grove, our roving life here, in good earnest, first commenced ; and verily, they were not only palmy days but nights too, as we lay canopied beneath those stately trees ; but "*palmam qui meruit ferat*" wheresoever it be !

Our introduction to the habits of the patriarchal age was not, forsooth, the most enviable, for so ill were the inhabitants of the neighbouring village reported of, that although armed ourselves with percussion guns and pistols, the sudden explosion of which causes much alarm in the East, it was voted in a solemn council of war, advisable to save ourselves rather than our

purses, by engaging an Arab guard of the natives, to patrol around our encampment, during the night, on the principle of setting Greek to meet Greek. These were duly armed with long guns, but, I verily think, possessed but one charge of powder among all, which we were by no means inclined to increase till morning, though petitioned so to do. These people merit so completely their character as pilferers, that, unless a strict watch be ever maintained, trifling articles will disappear before them, with all the legerdemain of an accomplished Regent-street smasher.

Our man Andrea used every argument to increase the alarm of his masters, and thereby protect himself, he being of that brave order who most practically approve of the maxim, that

“ He who fights and runs away,
Will live to fight another day.”

The only nocturnal adventures were of

Queen Mab's suggestion. We next morning started on our homeward path, surveying, en route, the pyramids of Sacchara, standing close to our encampment, within the range of everlasting sand. The pyramids are not generally in a good state of preservation, and the examination of that commonly visited affords little to repay the toil of its investigation, beyond its being a chamber of extraordinary altitude. The pyramids are numerous and are scattered over a space of two leagues; the largest is irregular in form, bulging much towards the base, and several of the smaller ones are almost crumbled to ruins.

Here, and in many other situations, may be seen, when the sun is shining, quantities of scaribæuses, curiously occupied in rolling about little balls of clay, wherein their eggs are deposited, these they continually move, exposing every side to the heat, propelling them with their feet and the horn-like projections on their heads.

The Necropolis of Memphis extends far

and wide around. Denon conjectured, indeed, that this district was the Necropolis south of Memphis, while the pyramids of Djiza are erected on the grand cemetery north of that ancient city.

As we advanced from Sacchara, the prospect was mournful in the extreme, the entire surface of the sands being thickly strewn not only with refuse of the bandages used in embalming, broken pottery from the pits of the sacred birds, and other similar fragments, but with skulls and human bones blanching in the arid wilds, being rifled by the plundering Arabs from the pits far beneath the surface, to which the descent is by a confined open shaft.

We inspected likewise the enormous catacombs here subdivided into chambers and passages of a most intricate nature, often blocked up by heaps of rubbish, the grand entrance being by a hole so low, that one must literally crawl to enter it. The interior is a favourite haunt of jackals, not the most agreeable companions in the

world to stand cheek-by-jole with, in a dark corner.

We, however, examined the walls of the outer apartments, and I brought away a specimen of the elaborately carved hieroglyphics that cover them, between the receptacles made for mummies.

At a short distance, is a beautiful, isolated chamber, probably intended as a sacred spot, being richly adorned with emblems similar to those found in the catacombs; but these, instead of being cut into the stone, were in fine basso-relievo. So excessively contracted was the aperture into this shrine, that it was only by dint of long pulling and scratching away the sands contiguous, that we were enabled to extricate our stout friend, Mr. B——, from the prospect of the honour of being enrolled, if not embalmed, among the sainted dead of the renowned Necropolis.

Perhaps the sight, which more than any other gave a charm to this locality, was the catacombs of the sacred embalmed

Ibis, consisting of low narrow passages, supposed to reach to an enormous distance, but effectually stopped, ere much space can be traversed, by the pots of earthenware, which are piled up on the sides and across the pass, so as to prevent one proceeding further ; they assimilate to a loaf of sugar, securely covered at the smaller end, where the lid is fastened by cement : in these, the birds are carefully preserved by many bandages, but on exposure to air, all those we opened immediately crumbled to dust.

Hence, our road lay northward, across the same dreary tract, but on the western side of the Nile ; and after riding for a few miles, we reached the far more renowned and stupendous pyramids of Djiza. Like the others, they stand just within the limit of the Desert, and in close proximity, being four in number, two of which are considerably superior in dimensions ; the largest, called that of Cheops, we minutely explored, and though even now, when buried to the depth of the sixteenth stone at the entrance,

which is excavated below the surface, its elevation is four hundred and sixty-one feet, yet it seems less, by reason of the enormous base, equal to the area of Lincoln's-inn-fields, extending over eleven acres.

It is built of lengthy blocks of stone, from three to five feet high, formerly covered with slabs, as is still the case with the adjoining pyramid, rendering its ascent most dangerous; but to mount the pile of Cheops is now a comparatively easy task, being accomplished by means of the huge natural steps formed in decreasing layers by the style of construction, the successive layers amounting to two hundred and ten. Still, from the size and impaired state of these blocks, the climbing process offers no trifling obstacles to weak nerves, or tottering limbs, so that it is almost universally the custom to be attended by two or three inhabitants of the neighbouring village to pull and push the uninitiated.

Mr. J—, however, was quite unaccompanied, but so dreadful did the descent

appear to my shaking nerves, there being nothing whereby to save myself, in case of making one false step, that, deeming discretion the better part of valour, I sounded a speedy retreat. On the summit is a platform of nine huge blocks, and thirty-two feet square.

The contracted entrance conducting to the interior, is the mouth of a dismal passage three feet and a half high and ninety-two in length, sloping gradually downwards, lined with slabs of polished red granite. Having felt our way almost on our knees, attended by the guides bearing lights, ourselves within an ace of suffocation, we came, at the extremity, to a rough, almost perpendicular rock; up this we clambered ten or twelve feet, and then groped our way along another passage, rather more than a hundred and twenty feet in an oblique direction upward, notches being cut in it for the feet: at the end of this is a perpendicular shaft denominated the well, of a depth exceeding a hundred feet. A hori-

zontal gallery, about one hundred and seventy feet long, runs beyond this towards the centre of the edifice, leading to the room called the Queen's chamber, having an angular roof perfectly free from decorations, though the walls are covered with a thin white glittering saline coating, being about eighteen feet by sixteen; retracing our steps hence to the landing place near the well, we there clambered up the magnificent inclined plane, one hundred and eighty feet in length by six and a half in breadth, and probably sixty in altitude. This ascent is extremely slippery, but at its extreme point we gained the King's chamber, which is stated by Denon to be thirty-two feet in length by sixteen, and eighteen in height, all its parts are covered with vast slabs of Thebaic marble.

This apartment is exactly in the centre of the Pyramid, and contains only an enormous block of red granite eight feet long, very thick and hollowed out as a sarcophagus. It is without a lid having been

opened by Belzoni, and is supposed to have once contained a royal corpse, though it is perfectly simple.

"Shrine of the mighty can it be
That this is all remains of thee!"

The only other chambers yet discovered are four, of difficult access and inconsiderable dimensions, explored by Colonel Wyse. By whomsoever, and for whatsoever purpose, these colossal edifices were constructed is a point which will ever be undetermined, since there is every reasonable probability, that they will endure till time shall end. Lord Lindsay and others are of opinion that already they have existed from the age of Abraham, having been built by the shepherd Kings of Egypt who were the ancestors of the Philistines.

While engaged in exploring the interior of the huge pile, my cheating guides used their utmost endeavours to extort a promise of that unceasing word 'Bucksheesh,' or payment as we should term it, to the amount of forty piasters for the expedition, whereas one

third of that sum is ample. Every artifice was adopted in order to detain me behind the rest of the party, and thus to extort money while alone and unprotected; this might have been easily obviated by pointing a pistol to their breasts; but being unarmed, my only resource was to exert my genuine stentorian lungs to their highest pitch, by which means I was again enabled to overtake the main body, having no particular ambition of the honour of being plundered by such a miscreant set, even though it was in the Pyramid of Cheops.

Just by, we visited that extraordinary work the Sphynx, shaped from the solid rock, the head, neck and upper part of the breast alone standing above the sand to the height of twenty-seven feet, the width of the breast exceeding thirty; though the nose is nearly destroyed, and other parts mutilated, except the ears, there is yet a mildness of expression combined with delicacy of execution, the thick lips and general air strongly depicting the Nubian cast of expression.

The intention of this figure is uncertain, some suppose it to be for a tomb, and others as a symbol of the rising of the Nile, which occurs in July and August, at which period the sun passes the signs of Leo and Virgo, a sphynx being a virgin's head and breast with the body of a lion, though it is doubted whether this one much exceeds in size the part now seen, although by some writers one hundred and eight feet are assigned as the length of its body. Below are ruined walls of colossal stones, probably the remains of a temple, and in the side of a ledge of rocks are excavated several small, low, square chambers, deemed ancient tombs.

Quitting these more interesting memorials of the past, we traversed a district bearing abundant crops of corn, flax, beans and lupins estimated to yield fifty fold, and after a short but agreeable ride, we reached the village on the western bank of the Nile, where during spring the process of hatching chickens by artificial means is carried on; incredible numbers are thus annually pro-

duced but are much smaller than those brought forth by natural incubation. The ovens are constructed in a row about three feet in height, with an aperture at the top, to be opened or shut as the temperature requires, which is kept as even as possible arising from a smouldering fire constantly burning. The eggs are turned repeatedly, but our inspection was soon brought to a close, the warmth engendering fleas in such swarms and rendering them so agile, I presume thirsty too, that in a few moments a person of not the most sensitive skin is ready to jump out of it from the infliction of torture, which almost surpasses that of a cat of nine tails, and is nearly equal to the sharpest embrace of the iron-spiked virgin of Romanist inquisitorial notoriety.

Embarking at this village for Boulac, we landed on our way at the Island of Rhoda, in the midst of the stream. It is nearly a mile in length, is planted with sycamores, and boasts a beautiful garden of Ibrahim Pacha, superintended by a Scotchman. At its extremity stands the Nilometer, a

pillar within a square Saracenic building. On this the risings of the river are marked; a tradition here points out the spot where Moses was found by Pharaoh's daughter. But ill, indeed, did the vociferations of our barbarian crew accord with the dulcet sounds of Miriam's tuneful voice, or with the courtly exclamation of a royal maid. Certainly the banks are now completely bare, in accordance with the prophecy, "the reeds are withered."*

On the opposite side of the Nile we passed a large handsome structure in which surrounded by lofty walls, the Pacha's harem are frequently incarcerated. A spacious important canal, called Khalis, conducts water from the river, to and beyond the capital; having near its mouth an embankment broken through, with great rejoicings, when the annual rising has attained a sufficient height to irrigate by it the adjacent districts.

Three or four miles south of Cairo stands

* Isaiah, Chap. xviii. v. 6.

a noble palace of Mahomet Ali's, surrounded by fountains and extensive gardens, laid out in the European style; wherein flowers of every description flourish in luxuriance.

The stables of the Governor were extensive and well-stocked, in point of number, but the steeds are in, by no means, racing or even road condition. The carriages and equipments, too, imported from Europe, are faded and worn.

The neighbourhood of Cairo, indeed the general view of Lower Egypt, afforded such infinite satisfaction, that it was with the deepest regret, the advanced period of the season compelled us to abandon the voyage to Carnac, Luxor, and the Cataracts; but several weeks must necessarily have been occupied by the trip. The overpowering hot blasts prevailing in April and May, bearing pestilence on their wing, would have alone prevented the project. The south winds, too, which constantly blow in the winter months, were ceasing; and without this aid we had our crew alone to impel

the lifeless bark ; and to be towed from Cairo to Thebes was, notwithstanding the sport anticipated respectively by bird and beast slayers, lizard or antiquarian hunters, rather too slow an affair to be thought of, even by the most ardent disciple of Colonel Newher, or Wilkinson, whose excellent work on the ancient state of the country, together with some other books, may be engaged for the trip at the library at Cairo. But this was not for us, so Memnon's immortal statue, the mystic paintings and hieroglyphics that adorn the vast temples of Carnac, Luxor, and Dandara ; Elephantine, with the wild gloomy scenery beyond it, and the hallowed storied Isle of Phyloe, all yielded to her who knows no law, to stern necessity ; though not without many a lingering wish, when the wonderful stories of awe-struck admirers assailed our itching ears.

Some days were spent most agreeably in gaining an insight into the manners, habits, and political condition of Modern Egypt ; the pleasure being enhanced by intercourse

with our own countrymen, more than a hundred of whom met for a few days together at the table d'hôte in Niles' hotel. Those just returned in the steamer from India by way of Suez, and those about to proceed thither by the same conveyance, who had recently arrived from England in the boats of the Oriental Company, meet here as the general head quarters.

This route to our eastern dominions possessing such unequalled facilities must soon be still more adopted than is even now the case. The Pacha, with his usual political wisdom, seems inclined to afford every encouragement. A line of telegraphs is in some degree established, and the expediency of a canal or railroad from Cairo to the Red Sea is seriously debated, and though either would be a heavy outlay, and Arabs, as well as the drifting sands, might present an obstacle, yet it is probable that, by an arrangement with the Viceroy, this great work might be carried into execution in an advantageous manner for Great Britain.

So well and regular, indeed, is the communication between the capital and the Isthmus, that we may, however, rest satisfied with the existing arrangements. The journey through the Desert occupies only two days, having good accommodation and frequent stations on the road; several omnibuses, built in London, of an expressly light construction, are to convey the passengers through this portion of their route to the Red Sea, whence steamers regularly ply to the principal towns on the shores of our Indian possessions. Thus the voyage direct from England to Bombay is performed in six weeks; and should Marseilles be the point of embarkation instead of Falmouth, much sea, as well as a short time, will be further saved.

CHAPTER X.

Mahomet Ali; his history, character—Laws respecting marriage, murder and other crimes; their punishments—Judges—Witnesses—Bribery—Organization of Government—Police—Sources of Revenue most unjust and extortionate—Military system, incidents connected with it; pay of Soldiers drilled under the Pacha—Navy.

It yet remains, the objects most remarkable and easy of access having been particularised, to describe with greater accuracy those multiform peculiarities in the manners and customs, including the moral, social, political, and religious condition of the land that inspires such enhancing interest in the minds of most casual observers.

Far before every other source or cause of

wonder, the grand mover, the extraordinary main-spring of all, stands proudly preeminent. For never, since Napoleon, has any individual planned or executed such immense innovations, displayed such invincible energy, or claimed in so immeasurable a degree the attention of the mightiest powers of Europe, as that truly unequalled character, the Viceroy of Egypt; whose policy has caused such manifold contentions, and whose motives and system of action have proved the subject of representations differing in points of most essential importance, though few have bestowed unequalled praise where it is too evident that comparatively little merit can be reasonably attributed.

Mahomet Ali was born in Roumelia, following in early life the trade of a tobacconist, a circumstance of common occurrence in the East, where persons of humblest origin not unfrequently attain to offices of the highest importance; as he himself declares, he was born under an ever-smiling star; for having joined the Turkish forces

in Africa, he there displayed so much talent, that being first appointed to command the Albanians, he thence rapidly rose to that elevated station, he now so ably sustains. So deeply is he dreaded by the Sultan, that frequent expedients have been attempted to get rid of so dangerous a subject, if such he can be termed. The Pacha's appearance is venerable in the extreme, with a countenance expressive, and an eye of remarkable penetration ; he possesses activity and perseverance combined with intrepidity, in an unexampled degree, and though a stern administrator of the laws, he is not, on the whole, considered as inhumane for governing such a reprobate people.

Like my Lord Brougham, he is in himself an encyclopædia of knowledge ; the astounding reforms effected under his rule fully attesting his unequalled talent whether we consider the conquests he has made, the discipline effected in the army, the establishment and effective state of the marine, the introduction of European artificers and machinery, or the general system of

alteration brought about by his almost unaided genius.

In order to effect changes of so widely important a nature, especially in a Mahometan country, where custom and religion are alike averse to change, the power of Ali must necessarily be completely absolute; and it cannot be denied that the system established by him possesses decided advantages in an increased efficiency of the executive government, whereby accrues greater security and regularity in the administration of justice; for though this is yet deficient, disorder and violence are comparatively unknown, while to a certain extent protection is afforded.

Before he could write or even read, this wonderful man had exceeded the age of forty years; in private life his character is kind and estimable, avarice is his ruling passion, ambition the prime motive by which he is actuated; this might be expected of one who has risen so high on the wings of fame from so low an origin. His chief if not only object seems

to be the acquisition of a powerful empire, combined with excessive wealth; hence every imaginable expedient is adopted to increase his revenue, in the accomplishment of which his wretched subjects are not impoverished, but rather completely beggared; for he will not follow the policy of his son Ibrahim Pacha, who advocates the principle of giving the people at large a higher personal state, by increased interest in the cultivation of the land and other sources of income, instead of grinding them, by monopolies and most arbitrary exactions. Thus only combined with increased education, can the condition of his subjects be humanized, or at all events elevated from their present debased condition in which they are restrained from violence, by the fear of corporal punishments, being treated little better than the brute creation. Except inasmuch as he agrees to pay tribute to the Ottoman empire, on every other ground, the Pacha is perfectly independent, the government being moreover guaranteed as hereditary

to his family. The act which above all others stamps his character for cruelty, is the sanguinary number of the Mamelukes murdered in cold blood within the citadel of Cairo, when his word was solemnly pledged to do them no harm; their being, too, so insignificant a body, made it a deed unnecessary as well as unjustifiable on any pretext.

Ibrahim Pacha is his father's especial favourite, and being more severe is held by the people in yet greater dread. Though a distinguished warrior, it is stated by the officers opposed to him in the Syrian campaign, that his manœuvres and positions frequently displayed a marked ignorance in military tactics.

Concerning the state of the laws and their administration, it may be remarked, that the civil laws are taken from the Koran; but in points wherein this and the traditions of the prophet are deficient, judgment depends on the decision of the great Imam of that sect to which the supreme power belongs.

One of the earliest rites is circumcision,

usually performed about the age of six years ; in towns the boy is paraded through the streets mounted on horseback attended by his friends, being preceded by musicians and the barber's servant bearing his insignia of office ; the boy himself wears a turban but in other respects is habited as a girl.

Every Mahometan is allowed to possess four wives at the same time besides a number of concubines ; in consequence of which many of the purchased slaves are kept as such, though when a slave thus taken by her master becomes a mother, the child is free, inheriting equally with the offspring of the wives ; neither can its mother be subsequently sold, but is emancipated at her master's death. Except among the lower orders, the face of the intended bride is scarcely ever seen by her future husband until she goes to reside at his house ; he is therefore obliged to trust to the taste of a mother or other female of discreet judgment, though this must surely, at least, be rather a thankless

office for the one, and an extremely hazardous affair for the other, the two sexes usually so materially differing in their opinion of beauty and divers important qualifications in the fair sex, although in the opinion of Scotia's immortal bard

" Her goodness and her worth to spy,
" You need but glance at Ellen's eye."

A marriage is lawfully effected by the contracting parties declaring their consent to marry each other before two witnesses, and by paying a portion of the dowry though the consent of a girl under age is not requisite, some person appointed by will or by the Cadee can act for her.

It is absolutely necessary to give a dowry, the least legal sum is equal to about five shillings of our money; a wife may be twice divorced and twice taken back, but when divorced, the husband must repay a portion of the dowry; the divorced one, also, takes away the furniture and the other articles she brought at her marriage.

Mere dislike is a sufficient cause for putting away a wife, but she may not leave her husband unless he has committed some considerable fault towards her. The law requires four eye-witnesses to establish a charge of infidelity against a wife, who on being proved guilty is stoned to death.

One of the greatest sins in the estimation of a Mahometan is disobedience to parents; and disobedient children are extremely rare, as they usually treat the authors of their existence with peculiar respect.

Murder is punished by the death of the offender or by his paying a fine, at the option of the heirs of the deceased, though this is now at the will of the judge. So revengeful are the Bedouins, that any descendant of a murderer, even to the fourth generation, may be and often is killed by any relation of the person who was murdered or slain in fight. The female's share of property equals half that of a male who is in the same degree of relationship; there are no degrees of primogeniture having particular privileges.

Petty offences are punished in a summary manner, by striking the soles of the feet fixed in a horizontal position with a round thong of hippopotamus' hide, causing lameness and excruciating agony; this infliction may be constantly witnessed in the citadel of Cairo, where, during the Pacha's absence, his deputy presides as Judge, who, in cases where the offence with which the accused is charged may be denied, and there is yet reason for suspicion, condemns the culprit to be bastinadoed; a course commonly producing the effect of eliciting a confession of the crime. Convicts are employed in the public works; by them too the army is sometimes recruited.

For the more speedy and efficient administration of justice, there are several inferior courts, the members of which are chosen by the Viceroy acting entirely according to his will; the Cadee is the Supreme Judge, who, after presiding one year, returns to Constantinople whence he was sent. In cases wherein the plaintiff

cannot substantiate his charge by witnesses, the accused may clear himself by oath, which he takes, placing his right hand on the Koran. Witnesses in order to be credited must be disinterested and of good character ; two at least are required by law, but the testimony of a slave is not admitted, nor that of a master in favour of his slave ; unfortunately the rank of the plaintiff or defendant, or a bribe will often influence the Judges' sentence, who are found to decide in favour of the party who bribes the highest !* The extent to which bribery and suborning false witnesses is still carried, is most shameful.

Every town and district which embraces several villages has its own judge ; thus the entire country is subdivided into departments governed by their peculiar officers ; besides which to each village a Sheyk is appointed, who is a native, and holds a situation by no means enviable, being held responsible with his life for any unlawful

* Exodus, chap. xxii. v. 8.

acts occurring within his jurisdiction, often in addition undergoing a severe bastinadoing at the period of collecting the taxes, because the people under his surveillance cannot pay the unreasonable sums exacted from them.

The police of Cairo are efficient ; one is stationed at the end of each of the narrow streets, where is a strong door kept shut during the night, when any person going abroad is obliged to carry a small lantern, there being no public lights ; on being seized without this *compagnon de voyage*, the person is usually placed in *durance vile* for the hours of darkness, where he may expect the felicity of paying for lodging by peeling garlic. An Englishman was very nearly taken for this offence of walking in the dark at Constantinople, where a similar custom prevails.

The illuminators are extremely simple, in circular form, made of thin white paper with a small socket for the taper, furnished with a small handle and pasteboard at both

extremities; when not required, it will compress into an extremely small compass.

Certain officers discharge the duty of inspecting weights and measures, as well as of preventing articles from being sold above the market-price; on being detected doing which the culprit is flogged; but bakers detected selling bread deficient in quality or quantity are sometimes affixed to their own door-posts by an awl bored through the ear.

The annual revenue is estimated at almost four millions of pounds sterling; half of this is derived from the land-tax which is nearly eight shillings per acre; the exportation of grain and cotton is also a very lucrative branch of income, being like everything else a government monopoly. Other sources of revenue are the customs, a duty on fish or animals brought into the towns to be slaughtered, a poll-tax, a tax on palm-trees, with the baskets and ropes made from them; an income-tax amounting to a twelfth of a

person's annual receipts and a duty levied on grain upon the inhabitants of towns amounting to ninepence per bushel. But, in fact, in order to fill his purse, exactions of the most oppressive, nay, cruel description are perpetrated by the Pacha ; for instance, every male twelve years old is liable to be taxed, but as no registers are kept, it is imposed at any time that the creatures of the governor may chose, though long before it is justly due.

Again as to palm-trees, when this tax was first imposed, yielding one hundred thousand pounds, many were cut down and the ground was appropriated to other purposes ; but no sooner had this reached the ears of the crafty Ali, than he decreed the same tax should be paid for them as if standing. Indirect taxation is equally onerous on wool, butter and honey ; enormous sums are also realised to a profit of at least fifty per cent to government, by the method adopted for the sale of corn and other landed productions, since not only that portion claimed by the law, but the entire produce

is sometimes taken possession of by the Viceroy, at what may seem, perhaps, to be a fair price for the grower ; but the fallaciousness of this course will be evident, when we consider that thus the ordinary necessities of life are at the mercy of the tyrant, by whom the value of the currency is frequently varied accordingly as he pays or receives money, so that by raising or depreciating the standard, he can at any time pocket an enormous sum to the sole loss of the laborious Fellahs who are often left with literally scarcely sufficient to satisfy the cravings of nature.

Never is the slightest encouragement given to those who might otherwise endeavour to increase their crops, since, not only is the sum due to those who have paid their just quota frequently withheld, to make up for the deficiency of others, but when an individual, or even a whole village, has discharged its claims to the full, it is yet liable to have the trifling hard-earned pittance that remains forcibly taken away, because a neighbouring village or a less indus-

trious agriculturist has failed to supply the demands of the collector: not that the Fellahs submit willingly to these exactions, until, at least, they have often been severely beaten, because they are convinced, by experience, that the more readily they pay, the more will be demanded of them.

Doubtless, these and similar shameful extortions were had resource to, in great measure, for the support of that immense force, by which the Ottoman empire was so completely defied; but though, during the Syrian campaign, the army may have amounted to nearly two hundred thousand men, it is now reduced to about half, in addition to which, the pay of those now serving is much in arrear, being nominally fixed at three shillings per month, besides a supply of bread furnished to themselves and families.

The soldiers are pressed into the service, each district being compelled to provide a certain number. So much is the military life detested, that to avoid the conscription,

youths commonly deprived themselves not only of their front teeth but even of the forefinger of the right hand, or of the right eye, that by this means they might be useless ; but this artifice was speedily rendered unavailing by the Pacha's superior craft, who, by forming a left-handed regiment, caused the mutilated to be efficient troops.

The condition of the army is entirely on a new footing, Ali being the first to introduce the European system of tactics among the native Arab troops, a work of much time and difficulty, they being so prejudiced to their own wild warfare, that bribes, address, and perseverance were all needed to induce them to submit to drill under a French colonel ; the discipline, even now, is greatly inferior to our own, and their unsoldier-like air and dress have been previously mentioned.

The navy contains nearly twenty first-rate men-of-war, but now laid up in the port of Alexandria, dismantled, having been offered to the Sultan, in liquidation of the

tribute due to him. There are several ships besides of inferior dimensions ; all are well built, the navy and marine being entirely formed by the reigning Pacha, under an able French engineer, who superintends this department.

CHAPTER XI.

State of Agriculture—Relative produce of different crops—Implements—Cattle—Immense Territory owned by the Pacha, how acquired and tilled—Trees and Fruits—Manufactures established by the Viceroy—Wretched destitute condition of the Natives—Climate—Diseases—Language.

EGYPT is especially an agricultural country, and owing to the immense fertilizing power of the annual inundation and repeated irrigation, the soil, if properly tilled, would yield in an unprecedented degree. The production of three crops in the same year, from land artificially inundated, has been mentioned, as also the cultivation of coffee, (said not to answer), and the

sugar-cane in Upper Egypt, with the vast quantity of rice grown near the sea.

The indefatigable governor and his son Ibrahim have introduced hemp, indigo, opium, and the olive tree, which latter, though flourishing in luxuriance, yields oil of an inferior watery quality.

Of all kinds of grain, wheat* is most abundantly cultivated, its price varying from one shilling per bushel, after a favourable harvest, up to nearly twice that sum; next to wheat, beans are the chief produce, then barley, maize, rice, lentils, peas and flax; clover abounds, as well as gourds, melons, and cucumbers; the growing of cotton, too, of very superior quality, has of late, extremely increased.

The implements of husbandry are of the

* The number of acres under cultivation have been estimated at 1,800,000, whereof the produce of wheat, with a little rye, is about 7,400,000 bushels; of beans, 3,500,000; of barley, 3,250,000; of rice, 400,000; of flax, 200,000; besides 115,000 quintals of cotton, and nearly 9,000 of sugar.

vilest description, generally limited to a rude hoe or spade, and a diminutive plough, its share of equally Lilliputian dimensions, sometimes just tipped with iron, the remainder of wood, exactly resembling those used in remotest times, as is proved by those depicted in the temples of Thebes ; the same remark applies to the pitchers and other articles in common use.

Good roads being unknown, the product of the land is transported on the backs of men or cattle, which latter are donkeys, mules, miserable small cows or oxen ; the cattle required in tilling, together with the seed and implements, belonging to Mahomet or his son, by whom nearly the whole of the landed property is owned, a trifling portion appertaining to the mosques and private individuals.

The grasping ruler has acquired these unbounded possessions by buying, at a cheap rate, or forcibly taking possession, whenever any pretext for so doing could be gained, and where none could be alleged,

the land has been taken from the lawful proprietors, to whom a certain sum is guaranteed for life, as a remuneration proportioned to the value of the soil of which they were dispossessed.

The territory by which the Pacha has thus become master of is leased out for a term of years, on favourable conditions, where, from a bad locality, it before remained untilled, but where it is subject to inundation; it is let in small allotments to the Fellahs, or agricultural Arabs, who are obliged to cultivate, and thus made compulsory tenants, at will, receiving for the support of themselves and families, barely one-third of the produce; the remainder being carried to the government warehouses at the grower's expense.

The rate of wages given to those who are forced to labour on the public works never exceeds a piastre daily; but when employed by individuals as camel-drivers, to tow boats, &c., they have at least double that sum.

The flatness of Lower Egypt is relieved only by the slight elevations whereon the villages are erected, by the embankments thrown up here and there, by reason of the inundations, and by the sandy slopes that descend towards the Nile, near Cairo.

Canals intersect this district on every side: they have of late been much improved; but the plan for cutting an enormous channel, in order to retain a sufficient quantity of water to supply the deficiencies of irrigation, is abandoned as untenable; the number of machines used for this purpose amount to at least fifty thousand. The aspect of the land south of the capital is totally different: there a long mountain range stretches far by the eastern bank of the river, whence immense quantities of stone have come. They carry an air of barrenness that pervades the regions of eternal sand.

There are few trees, except the palm with its graceful tuft of nodding leaves

five or six feet in length. Of its footstalks when split, admirable crates and hampers are made, and strong ropes from its fibres. The dates are a favourite food. Other trees are the sycamore yielding small figs, the tamarisk, cassia, varieties of the mimæa, limes, bananas, figs, oranges, citrons and olives; the classic lotus is beautiful in its season.

The manufactories now established owe their origin to the genius of the indefatigable Mahomet, by whom they are extensively conducted; machinery, besides many artisans, being imported from England and France. To find materials for the erection of these large edifices, the ruins of antiquity have severely suffered; some temples are destroyed or irreparably injured, and the barbarous idea was seriously meditated of pulling down one of the Pyramids and thus obtain a quarry of ready-hewn stones for building manufactories. Fortunately the surveyor prevented this by reporting that the labour and expense of

raising one of those stupendous piles would exceed that of drawing stone from the pits. Among others are several spacious rice mills, mills for oil, powder, and paper making ; sugar houses, manufactures for cloth, muslins, cotton, woollen, silk and linen goods, silk worms being reared in numbers ; there is also a power loom weaving factory, an establishment for glass making, with forges and founderies, where muskets and new cannon are turned out, the old cannon being recast.

As the work of one man, all this is truly wonderful, had nought besides been achieved ; but then the absolute sway of that man is to be considered. But machinery will never answer, in this country ; for though time may overcome the clumsiness of the Arabs and opposition may avail in procuring the best articles, in which trickery has been practised, yet the main, the simple reason why machinery can never answer as in Europe, remains in full force, and this is the extreme cheapness of manual

labour, and the equally excessive want, and consequent dearness of fuel. It would be wiser to attend rather to increase the production of the raw material, that cotton, grain, and other articles of traffic might be exported still more largely than has ever hitherto been the case.

The condition of the inhabitants, is, it will be seen, that of utter servility and wretchedness, so that although living in a clime blessed with unequalled fertility, they may be truly said to be "in a barren and dry land." The pillage so unblushingly practised, the universal principle of compulsion, the secret espionage, all depict too clearly, the spirit of "ruling with a rod of iron" that so unhappily prevails. Many of the Fellahs prematurely perish, being compelled to labour beyond the utmost stretch of their natural powers ; hence is a principal cause for maintaining so large a standing army, that any desperate outbreak among the peasantry may be easily repressed, though without arms or resources they do not,

indeed, possess the capability of opposing their hard taskmasters.

The worst points in the character of the people, who are obstinate, idle from the effect of climate, and addicted in the extreme to theft and lying, are thus increased a hundred fold. So notorious is their want of veracity, that it is customary to act diametrically contrary to their assertions, the necessity whereof we frequently proved in the transit of the Desert. The favourable traits in the national character, but which are constantly repressed, are remarkable shrewdness and hospitality, especially amid the wilds, where a stranger is rarely allowed to pass by without an invitation to partake of food which he would be thought most uncourteous in refusing; moreover, the Bedouins would submit to any injury rather than suffer a guest to be mal-treated. They are most frugal, but, as may be supposed, the Bedouins of the Desert far surpass in virtues the Arab serfs of Egypt. Both classes

are excessively licentious, and when a wife is proved guilty of criminal intrigue, she is sentenced to be drowned.

So great is the religious pride of a Mahometan, that "Christian dog," or "Infidel" are commonly applied to Europeans as terms of deepest opprobrium. There is much hypocrisy, since to be esteemed religious is a great honour, the professors of any other faith being undoubtedly doomed to perdition. Charity is instilled in the Koran and the tenor of action receives much of its bias from their implicit fatalism causing such frequent expressions of "God is merciful," "God wills it, what can man do?" From this doctrine arises a resignation frequently approaching to apathy, hence they are comparatively heedless when exposed to danger as related by the missionary Mr. Wolf, who on seeing a wall about to fall on some Mussulmen seated beneath, warned them of the impending danger, when the only notice taken was a contemptuous sneer with an ejaculation "God is merciful," on which the tottering frag-

ments fell, overwhelming the deluded fatalists in the ruin !

The oppressive policy so universally practised, greatly tends to diminish the population, which was estimated not long since at two millions and a half, whereof according to Lane, one million seven hundred and fifty thousand are Mahometans and one hundred and fifty thousand Copts or native Christian Egyptians, who have also decreased in number, many becoming converts to the doctrines of the Koran. They are not of pure blood, having intermarried with Greeks, Abyssinians and others ; they are distinguished by a black, blue or brown turban, and wear usually a full black gown.

As respects the temperature of the country, it may be said, although the mornings and evenings are extremely chilly, the mid-day heat is oppressive ; yet this is often moderated by a northerly breeze accompanied by a dryness in the peculiarly transparent atmosphere, so that the climate is esteemed on the whole decidedly salubrious, provided exposure to the heavy

dews be avoided, rain falling very rarely except near the coast.

The exhalations arising after the subsidence of the waters are the source of abundant cases of dysentery and ophthalmia, while the fifty days of hot southerly winds in April and May occasion entire prostration of strength ; the thermometer then rising in the higher districts to 105° , being eight or ten degrees lower on approaching the sea. At this season the plague prevails, though in consequence of the recent improvements in draining and quarantine regulations, its virulence is greatly impaired, but it raged fatally in 1835, when not less than eighty thousand persons died of it in Cairo alone.

The oppressive simoon proceeding from the south east blows sometimes during summer, so that the period for visiting this storied clime, with comfort, is from November till March, the thermometer then ranging from 50° to 65° degrees ; from this mild state of the atmosphere our summer flowers were blooming luxuriantly in the Pacha's garden, though it was then the middle of

February ; among others were the yellow China with other roses, jessamines, larkspurs, stocks, and coreopsis : while the blue iris, anayallis and others flourished without culture. The ordinary language is inferior to the dialects of the Bedouins of Arabia, though far preferable to those used in Syria, where many of the words are altogether different.

The Egyptian pronunciation is peculiar, and indeed the Arabic language requiring severe study to attain to any proficiency in it, it is a fortunate circumstance that to the traveller its acquisition is of trifling importance, a servant being imperiously required as a cook who acts at the same time as interpreter. I was, therefore, content with possessing a scanty lore, by way of ready change such as "stop a little," "go quick," "give me such an article," by thus erring on the safe side we avoided incurring the fate of our compatriot in Germany, who on traversing a remote district, where only the native language was understood of which he knew scarcely a

word, and wishing to have beef for dinner, asked for "Kine Fleisch," having been informed that the common words strongly assimilated their English synonymes; but in vain was the wished for dish expected, soup, vegetables, sauerkraut, fish with a host of greasy sauces, stewed fruits and sweet puddings, all appeared in due course, according to the universal custom, but no meat of any description was presented to the dinner-seeking traveller; notwithstanding he reiterated his want to the obsequious host, who replied only by pointing to the groaning table, until at last, on the arrival of a more skilful interpreter, the mystery was cleared up by his acquainting the crest-fallen Englishman that "kein" (pronounced as "kine") instead of meaning beef, signified in German "no" or "none;" so the importunate ignoramus had during the whole time been asking eagerly for "no meat!"

The literature, though deficient in scientific works, is esteemed good; the studies of Mahometans are confined within narrow

limits, but many of them are now receiving European instruction in the sciences, more particularly in surgery and medicine in which lamentable ignorance previously existed, it being usual to place entire reliance on Providence, charms, and astrology.

CHAPTER XII.

Manners and Customs—Marriage ceremonies, number of wives, harems—Ladies smoking—Funeral rites—Tombs—Modes of salutation—The pipe and tobacco—Dancing girls—Jugglers—Writing materials—Meals, of what composed and how taken—Scripture reference—Management of Bees—Beverages—Dress of the higher classes—Religion, its rites and doctrines—Dervishes—Genii—Superstitions—Education—Missionary and other schools—Mahometan converts at the Protestant chapel—The Copts.

THE more common or peculiar customs and habits of society deserve from their importance distinct mention; among the most remarkable are the ceremonies attendant on marriages. The laws concerning them have been previously described, though it may be stated here, that the majority of those possessed of one wife only, and but

few comparatively have more, remain for the sake of domestic tranquillity without a concubine slave, some preferring merely a purchased Abyssinian to the more expensive maintenance of a wife, two of whom are rarely kept under the same roof, though our Chancellor at Cairo is reported to keep up an establishment of several wives, or concubines, white as well as coloured. *Chacun à son goût* ; this official is by birth a demi-Englishman !

Few persons are admitted into the harems besides the immediate attendants ; the inmates being even more exclusive than the select chosen ones of my Lady Patro-ness who can gain an introduction to Al-macks.

The condition of the wives is, in truth, no better than that of prisoners within the rules of the Bench, as the former are graciously permitted to pay visits abroad when attended by a male Nubian slave ; a privilege not extended to the concubines. Yet wives and slaves are usually not only alike debarred from eating with their lord

and master, but are required to wait upon him with due respect. What think the fair ones of Britain of Eastern discipline? Verily what is "woman's master-passion" there?

The inmates of the harems being naturally of a lively disposition, they are at no loss for amusement. They are rarely instructed in music or dancing, but spend much time in embroidering slippers, handkerchiefs, or other articles, which are sold for them. They enjoy smoking the long, slender Turkish pipe ornamented with its elegantly enamelled amber mouth-piece, and furnished with tobacco of a most mild, delicious aroma.

This appears to us a masculine habit, and my brother was not a little astonished when, on visiting a wealthy Armenian banker at Constantinople, who ordered pipes, coffee, and sweetmeats for his gratification; on his hesitating to smoke, because, as he explained, it might probably be disagreeable to his wife, the man of money replied, "Oh! do not think of that,

Madam will be delighted to take a pipe with you !” And so she did ; enjoying it as much as an English belle would the making a conquest of the handsomest beau in a ball-room.

The entire proceedings of the harem are described so admirably by Lady Mary Wortley Montagu, and by Miss Pardoe in her “ City of the Sultan,” that I will merely add, that in the opinion of Lane, the females of Egypt are less restrained than in any other portion of the Turkish dominions. Neither are they usually discontented with their seclusion, but, on the contrary, imagine that if more than ordinary liberty be granted them, it is a sign of their being slighted by their husbands. Such, therefore, is the effect of habit and education, that the freedom so enjoyed by females in Christian lands, a freedom that imparts charms so infinite and advantages so incomparable to general society, is considered in the East but as a proof of inferior esteem, and causes nothing but pity or contempt !

In conducting a bride to the abode of her husband, peculiar ceremonies are observed, before the celebration of which, several days are suffered to elapse after the conclusion of the marriage contract. A sum, provided by the bride's family, together with part of the dowry, is expended in procuring furniture and dress, which remain her especial property. Though among the lower classes very little is given with the betrothed, but as a set off to the deficiency in worldly goods, the peasant can always manage, previously to the espousals, to gain a view of the features of his intended.

The fair one should be conducted to the bridegroom's house either on Monday, or on the eve of Friday, which is esteemed the more propitious time. Two days, however, previous to this, she goes in state to the bath, the procession being headed and closed by musicians, playing on hautboys and drums, between whom march the relations and friends of the bride. She herself, if rich, walks under a canopy of

gay-coloured silk, supported by poles at the four corners, and borne by men. The future wife is entirely enveloped from head to foot in a red cachmere shawl, one female at least walking on either side, who, with their hands clasped together behind her back, urge the bride forward, as though coy and unwilling; in hot weather, she is fanned with ostrich or other feathers.

Among the lower class, when music cannot be afforded, the women in attendance amply supply the deficiency, by unceasingly uttering along the streets shrill cries of joy, produced by a sharp emission of voice, accompanied by a rapid tremulous motion of the tongue.

The procession to the bridegroom's dwelling resembles the above. On arriving there it is customary to feast, and the same evening the bridegroom proceeds to the mosque in grand parade, when the bride goes from one village to another among the rural districts, she usually rides on a camel covered with a shawl, attended by singing women; the Sheyk, or some other persons

on horseback, preceding, whose steeds curvet and amble in continued circles.

The funereal rites strongly contrast with those adopted in Europe and, as is needful in so hot a climate, take place on the same day, or at furthest, the day following the demise. No sooner is life extinct, than the public wailing women* are summoned, who gain a sustenance by lamenting, as their services are required. Being paid according to their exertions, they are therefore most violent in their demonstrations, as shrieking, rending their clothes, with divers gesticulations, thus thinking that the dead are honoured. Not these alone, but the friends of the deceased also lament openly, beating their breasts, and often striking a tambourine† to increase the noise.

The corpse is then washed, clad in grave clothes and carried out to burial; the funeral train being composed first of several persons chanting a melancholy dirge, followed by the friends and relatives of the

* Jeremiah, chap. ix. v. 17, 18.

† Matthew, chap. ix. v. 23.

departed one, whose bier is borne next covered with a large shawl, while behind walk the female mourners loudly lamenting. The corpse having been carried to the mosque, where prayers are said over it, it is thence conveyed to the vast cemetery, the common tombs in which are a small oblong vault having an arched roof; the entrance being at the end with one side facing Mecca; over this receptacle stands a low oblong monument of stone or plastered bricks, having an upright slab at the head and foot, inscribed with the name of the person interred below, often too with a text from the Koran, and ornamented with characters in fanciful colours. The head stone of men is distinguished by a turban carved on its top; the graves of the wealthiest are not unfrequently adorned with a small square edifice surmounted by a cupola.

The modes of salutation are alike graceful and impressive; the most ordinary form is to place the right hand gently on the breast, and then to touch the forehead with the

ends of the fingers of the same hand ; a person commonly kisses the hand of a superior, placing it also to his forehead, when he intends particular respect : intimate friends, on saluting, join their right hands, then each kisses his own hand, putting it to his lips and forehead or breast; they embrace sometimes by falling on each other's neck, and kissing both sides of the face, as was done in the meeting of Esau and Jacob, of Joseph and Benjamin, and in the parable of the returning Prodigal ; indeed, it is interesting to trace the numerous similarities in the customs of the Jews, and those, at the present day, in use among the nations of the East.

Though the general character is animated, and remarkable for affability, nay, even for courteousness and grace, there is yet a remarkable seriousness of deportment and formality in addressing each other, so totally disagreeing with the Neapolitans, whom we had so recently quitted, where all is so noisy and loquacious, accompanied

by such superabundant action, that I could scarcely forbear from imagining that I was about to witness a fight in the streets.

On meeting, the lower classes of Arabs inquire earnestly after the well-doing of the cattle and crops, but rarely deem wife or child as worthy of mention. The slaves of a distinguished personage kiss the sleeve or skirts of his garment; they are summoned by clapping the hands, bells being unused even in the mosques, and the Eastern people are extremely saving of their tongues, at least the men. I cannot undertake to answer for the females on this point, though they certainly do not invariably follow the advice of Pollonius "give every man thine ear, but few thy voice!" Such are the habits of cleanliness, that the outer slippers are always taken off on entering an apartment.

The great delight of nations in the East is their pipe; they will sit nearly the entire day, with the utmost gravity, enjoying its alluring charms, surrounded by its fumes, soothed by the calming balm; they deem

themselves, when thus engaged, in the perfection of terrestrial bliss. The pipe is four or five feet in length or even more, of cherry, maple, or jessamine, the latter being cooler is used in summer; the stick is, among the better sort, covered with silks interwoven of divers colours; the owners are as pleased of the assortment of this article, as ever was an English Squire of his London made guns. The bowl is capacious, of baked earth; a bright, shallow, brass tray is placed under it to preserve the carpets whereon this part invariably rests, the smoker sitting on the divan cross legged. But of all the paraphernalia, it is the mouth-piece that forms the chief attraction, being large and globular, so that when used, it touches merely the outside of the lips. The material is of opaque, lemon-coloured amber, the more transparent kind being less esteemed; this article is not considered to carry infection, though the centre passes a wooden tube which is charged.

The price of these mouth-pieces varies from a few shillings to many pounds, ac-

according to the enamel and value of the jewels wherewith it is inlaid, such as jasper, agate, and even gold, emeralds, rubies, and diamonds ; one richly ornamented with the latter was shewn me at Constantinople by an European officer greatly distinguished in the Syrian war, and subsequently elevated to the rank of Pacha by the Sultan ; it was a present from the Grand Vizier.

The tobacco smoked by the higher classes, is extremely mild, possessing a most delicious flavour ; it is of a light yellow colour, and is chiefly grown near Latikea in Syria ; there is a stronger tobacco in common use, named from the town of Soor. A particular species, the toombak is proper for the nargeeleh, which is a Persian pipe, with a long flexible tube, so arranged that the smoke passes through water, giving coolness, but requiring strong inhaling, and therefore frequently found to be prejudicial.

The dancing girls called Alme are no longer allowed to exhibit themselves, nor permitted to reside in the capital ; they are of most debased character, their move-

ments being quite voluptuous, especially in the bee dance, in which, from the supposition that the insect is stinging them, they become after a short period so violent, as to tear off almost the entire garments. How different to the lively Tarantella of Naples or the graceful Romaika of Greece! Jugglers are seen to exhibit their tricks with scorpions and fascinated serpents that crawl over the body of their owners; being, however, effectually deprived of their venomous properties.

In writing, reeds are the invariable substitute for quills and are better adapted to the Arabic character; the inkhorn is carried in the girdle, and is ordinarily of brass, containing, at one end, a projection to hold the ink, while the remainder for the reeds is perfectly flat, and being fixed in the scarf is carried in that manner.

As to meals, the breakfast among the better classes consists of coffee and eggs, with bread, butter, cheese, and curdled milk, or of a kind of pastry saturated with butter, and made extremely thin, so as to

fold over, the bread being shaped like a round flat pliant cake.

Dinner is served directly after mid-day ; every one, before sitting down, or rather squatting, to the table or tray, washes his hands with soap and water, the latter being brought round by an attendant after every dish is served and a little poured over the hands from a ewer into a covered basin, perforated with small holes, through which the liquid runs, in order that the sight may not offend ; rose water is frequently used, for the Eastern people are extravagantly fond of perfumes, as myrrh, aloes, or ambergris.

When the food is served, it is brought in upon a round tray, placed on a low stool, around which the company sit on the floor, a circular flat cake and spoon being assigned to each, the former serving as a plate ; spoons are usually employed in eating soup and rice, but neither knives nor forks are seen, the thumb and two fingers of the right hand serving in their stead.

The master of the house begins the repast first, and if there be any guest espe-

cially to be honoured, the host selects the choicest portion, presenting it to the distingué with his own fingers ; nor is a spoon always employed, even for rice, as I was assured by an eye-witness at a grand dinner given by the Governor of Nablous to a numerous party of officers, whereat a huge dish of that article was served out by his Excellency's major-domo, who, thrusting both hands into the platter together, thus dispensed its contents to the courtly guests, in a manner not quite so elegant as that in which a keeper doles out the meal for dogs, in this our barbaric land !

In eating with the fingers, a portion of the flat flexible bread is broken off, and dipped in the dish, in order to enclose a piece of its contents, usually cut small for the purpose ; this is then conveyed to the mouth, the bread being doubled over it : sometimes bread is merely sopped in the dish.*

The ordinary food consists of meat served in minute portions, with chopped onions ; garlic is consumed largely by the

* Ruth, chap. ii., v. 14. St. John, chap. xiii. v. 26.

poorer orders ; rice well-seasoned, is eaten with meat, also morsels of mutton or lamb, round in shape, being roasted on skewers.

The meat being deficient in fat is cooked with butter, and the dishes are served in a long-continued succession : sometimes a small lamb or fowl is brought up entire, when both hands are required for its dissection.

In killing birds as well as beasts for food, especial care is taken to "pour out the blood thereof,"* according to the Jewish law. So strictly is this observed, that the throats of the feathered creation are cut, their heads meanwhile turned towards Mecca. Some pigeons we had shot were refused by our Arab crew, because this custom had not been complied with.

Fish, dressed with oil, is held in estimation ; stewed meats, mixed with fruits and vegetables, are abundantly eaten, sub-

* Leviticus, chap. xvii., v, 13, 14.

stantial food being prejudicial in so hot a climate.

The ordinary vegetables are cabbage, spinage, beans, peas, lentils, with gourds and cucumbers: the most standard dish is boiled rice, stirred together with butter, seasoned with salt and pepper. Sweets of various kinds are greedily devoured; particular pains, indeed, are employed in procuring an ample supply of honey, which is insured by transporting vast quantities of hives, piled together on boats, into Upper Egypt, during the month of October, the flowers there being earlier than in the lower districts; here the bees remain, culling the sweets, as they can be met with, from the orange, jasmine, and other blossoms, till they are brought down again, with the advanced season, to the region nearer the coast.

The best fruits are dates, grapes, oranges, citrons, figs, sycamore figs of diminutive size, *figus indicus*, or prickly pear, the fruit of the cactus, pomegranates, bananas, and a variety of melons.

Of beverages, the water of the Nile, when filtered, or suffered to stand some time, in order to clarify, is remarkably good: a common sweet drink is water with raisins boiled in it and sugar, rose water being added. Neither wines nor spirits are allowed by the Koran, though they are yet much indulged in privately; nor is this transgression always concealed, the Egyptians, or rather the Turks, having the reputation of great partiality for potent spirits.

Sherbet is the ordinary drink, the common sort being simple sugar and water, another kind is prepared from mulberries, a third from sorrel, a fourth from raisins, but that in highest estimation is made from a conserve of violets, by boiling pounded violet flowers with sugar.

Coffee is drunk well-nigh without cessation; without this the Easterns could not relish even the favourite pipe, for if the latter be their roast-beef the former is assuredly both plum-pudding and strong beer. It is taken indeed of extreme strength

without sugar and milk, in cups scarcely more capacious than those appropriated to eggs in England; it was to me quite overpowering, exciting the thirst, though its flower and aroma are so exquisite; the berry is pounded not ground, and added to the water when boiling, being subsequently allowed to simmer and then to stand previous to pouring off; from the peculiar fineness of the powder, it appears thick when drunk.

The food allowed does not include all animals, since nearly all, as swine and other animals, that were forbidden to the Jews, are equally prohibited to the Mahometans except the camel; neither do they eat, whatever dies by itself or was killed by a fell or blow.

The consumption of the Easterns is not voracious like the Greeks, who are so greedy that, at a grand dinner given them by our vice-consul at Patras, they not only devoured as much as possible, but crammed the relics of the feast, whether cakes, tarts or meats, into their pockets,

to the utter confusion and dismay of the liberal host. Although the dress of the lower classes has been already described, it yet remains to mention the ordinary apparel of the superior ranks; these are habited in drawers descending rather below the knee, next to which is the full-sleeved shirt reaching to the wrist, and upon this a short vest is put on during winter, while over all is a long plain garment of coloured silk and cotton in stripes extending to the ankles with its sleeves beyond the extremity of the fingers, but divided above the wrist in order to leave the hands exposed, though it is customary to cover them in the presence of superiors. Round the waist a coloured scarf or shawl is wound for a girdle; a lengthy coat is frequently worn as the outermost garment: a small close-fitting cotton cap is worn on the head having over it the ordinary red cloth cap or fez, with its dangling blue tassel of silk, encircled with a handkerchief or strip of figured muslin for the turban; a descendant of the Pro-

phet is permitted to assume a green dress.

Socks are worn at certain seasons, not stockings ; the shoes are red or yellow, of thick morocco, pointed and turned up at the toes ; the heel is turned down, that the outer shoe may be slipped off, when stepping on a mat ; in consequence of this, the inner shoe or boot is without a sole. Signet-rings are common and arms thrust in the girdle ; the pipe is always a companion, its replenisher, the tobacco pouch, being borne in the bosom of the ample robe.

The women are habited in a full shirt, a pair of very wide trowsers, tied just below the knee ; for strange as it may seem to some of the fair, the Eastern ladies always assume trowsers, but never the breeches. Next to these inexpressibles, comes a long vest with ample sleeves, an embroidered kerchief being tied loosely round the waist, over which a jacket is worn. The head is adorned in a similar manner with the male sex ; but among the ladies a long piece of muslin, richly set off with gold thread and

rows of spangles, depends from the back of the head nearly to the ground, the hair also hanging in braids, though at the sides of the face, it is worn plain or in simple locks. The red or yellow morocco boots, high like our Wellingtons, are protected by slippers. On going abroad a loose robe is worn and the veil, a long slip of white muslin concealing the entire visage, except a narrow aperture at the eyes. The outer cloak is very full, of black silk, but the unmarried wear white; it is tied round the head.

The religion is justly described as a compound of Judaism, Paganism and Christianity; Jesus Christ, Noah, Abraham, Moses, Aaron and the Prophets, being highly esteemed by Mahometans, who offer sacrifices to them, as at the tomb of Aaron, on Mount Hor. Recognising Judaism and the Christian faith as true, one cannot be surprised that the doctrines of the Koran have succeeded, artfully adapted as they are to the habits and wishes of Eastern nations, granting such indulgences and

promises of future felicity. The Koran or the sword was the grand tenet of Mahomet; hence one of his strongest enactments is the duty of warring with infidels, for whosoever falls thus engaged, his sins will surely be forgiven. Seventy-two blooming Houris, those black-eyed virgins whose charms can never fade, await at least his will in paradise, where women are admitted, though deemed inferior beings. To enter the celestial abode, the bridge of Al-Sirat must first be traversed,

“ Which totters o’er the fiery floods,”

being sharper than the edge of a scymitar, and narrower than a famished spider’s web; the burning stream flowing beneath it is hell. The principal sects are four, and the two leading articles of their faith, “there is no God but God, and Mahomet is his prophet.”

The most important duties are prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, in which two per cent should be given, besides the purifications preceding prayer, and the journey

to Mecca, a pilgrimage to be performed once by every Mussulman, though it is not invariably observed, a substitute is also sometimes permitted. The full number of prayers are often omitted in part: they should be offered five times daily. The call to public prayer is by voice, bells being unused. The clerk mounts the small gallery encircling the exterior of the minaret, and thence summons the faithful, thrice a day,—at sunrise, noon, and sunset. The worshipper in making his supplications, at first stands, his face turned to Mecca, and after muttering a few words, he raises his open hands one on each side of the face, their position being varied by placing them occasionally before him, then putting them on the knees, he inclines his head and body, uttering a brief address; after which, dropping on hands and knees, the former flat on the ground, slightly in advance, his forehead is slowly bent to the earth between them, this ceremony being frequently repeated. The prayers are counted off by a long string of beads.

The Mosques are little frequented, except on Friday, which is the sabbath, when the ministers expound, in addition to reciting a portion of the Koran. Business is suspended only during the hours of prayer. In the court of the Mosque stands a tank, for the prescribed ablutions; the walls of the edifice are whitewashed, perfectly plain; the lamps and ostrich feathers depend from the roof. Females are not admitted to public worship; but the rich pray by the side of the poor. Funds are set apart for the support of the Mosques.

Fasting is held of such extreme importance, that it carries the Mussulman halfway to paradise; prayer performing the remainder of the distance. Far the most severe fast is the whole month of Rahamazan, when from sunrise to sunset the Moslem must abstain from eating, drinking, smoking, smelling, perfumes and every luxury. These deprivations are felt most severely when the abstinence occurs in summer, for the years being lunar it occurs at all seasons. It is curious to observe, on

these occasions, the austere Turks sitting in most piteous plight ; they watch the dragged wheels of the slowly declining sun, their pipes lying untouched but filled, the lights even prepared to kindle them at the appointed signal. These severities are not observed by soldiers in active service, or by the sick, or those who are travelling. The grand festival of Bairam succeeding these austerities, is welcomed with joy. Gambling, usury, and games of chance are prohibited to these fatalists.

The religious saints are numerous, some termed Welees are revered, claiming a miraculous knowledge. Dervishes are a distinct class resembling monks ; they are united by fraternities, some being tradesmen, while others devote themselves solely to religious rites, as whirling or howling in the most unseemly frantic manner as is to be witnessed in the public exhibitions at Pera and Scutari. Another class lead a roving life, being a worthless set subsisting by tricks and alms.

Mussulmen believe in genii, who it is

thought will assume the shape of cats, dogs, and various animals. The genii are good and evil ; to avert the dreaded power of the latter charms are constantly worn, whereof that in highest repute is a copy of passages from the Koran, which is suspended round the neck. Numerals and diagrams are used for the same purpose, deemed also as greatly efficacious against the demons, disease, enchantment, and that most dreaded of all ills, the Evil Eye ; by which, when any thing is coveted belonging to another person, most direful evils are expected to arise. Small cowries, being powerful preservatives against this malignant influence, constantly ornament the trappings of the beasts of burthen.

Magic is fully relied on. The exhibitions of the extraordinary Egyptian magician who professed, by his mystic words and diagrams, to describe any person named, have been discussed by many writers.

Notwithstanding the extreme ignorance and bigotry of its followers, the religion of Mahomet is not observed, with its former

strictness ; a change mainly attributable to the facility of an increasing communication with the enlightened nations of Europe, a circumstance necessarily tending to loosen, imperceptibly, that bond of pride and prejudice whereby those degraded lands have been so long fast bound, in a state of hopeless debased ignorance. Yet it is but fair to say, that though still far too limited, education is considerably increased by the present Pacha, under whose system all are taught to read and recite portions of the Koran, to which writing, and a little arithmetic are frequently added.

Schools are established in the larger villages and towns ; the expense for attending them is trifling ; but as yet the schoolmasters are ignorant. The Viceroy, however, will speedily improve this point, having established a training school for instruction in European arts, and introduced into some of the classes the system of the British and Foreign Bible Society. Thus there is hope that the missionary labours may be crowned with increasing success,

notwithstanding the law decreeing death against apostacy from the faith, unless, on being thrice warned, the apostate repents.

The Coptic patriarch has undertaken to revise the Arabic version of the scriptures now proceeding at Malta. Many religious publications have been distributed in the country.

At Cairo are a seminary and two day schools under the Missionary Society; the former having twenty-five pupils, the latter one hundred and sixty, including several Mahometans. In a chapel connected with the school, Protestant worship is regularly performed: and truly gratifying was it to observe there a small number of native converts habited in the national costume of the military, being disciples of the militant church.

Romanists, Armenians, and Copts are fast extending their schools. The latter are chiefly of the Christian sects of the Jacobites and Eutychians, whose tenets enjoin long fasts, though not of remarkable

severity. This class of people are exempt from serving in the army ; hence their lot is incomparably preferable to that of the unfortunate Arabs.

CHAPTER XIII.

The Two Routes by the Desert from Cairo to Palestine
—Their comparative advantages—Firman when required—Arrangement for Camels, how to be made; number required, price, and particulars of them—National portraits—A Yankee—Start from Cairo—Slowness and fatigue of travelling on Camels—Heliopolis—Rameses—Land of Goshen—Plunderers at Bilbeis—Preparations for a Fight—Khans.

OUR desire for information being satisfied as far as possible, and our minds being, moreover, set at rest by that most potent and sweetest of all tranquillizers, in an extent too incredible to those who never quitted their native shores, I mean, letters from those dearest to us at home, we resolved to depart from Egypt without

further delay, it remaining only to decide on the most advantageous method of reaching the Holy Land ; since of the two routes open to our choice, the one, by the short Desert to El Arisch and Gaza, was much less fatiguing, while the other, by Mount Sinai, the Red Sea, Mount Hor, crowned with Aaron's tomb, Petra and Hebron, was of far superior importance, as well from the architectural wonders of Petra as from the hallowed associations ever attending that way traversed by the Israelites of old. Two parties, chiefly composed of English, were about to cross the longer Desert, but the number in each was limited, as the Bedouin Sheyk, whose protection is requisite, would not engage to escort a large party in safety. A further obstacle to this route was the weariness and privations experienced by the way. It was, therefore, for prudential nay almost compulsory reasons abandoned.

So vast is the desolate wilderness which must be crossed, that about thirty days are

occupied in journeying from Cairo to Jerusalem, each person requiring three or four camels, since, for several successive days, water is not found in these dreary wilds. The only quarters affording any accommodation are at the Convent of Sinai, a complete fortress, defended by guns against the roving Arabs. All admitted within it are hoisted up into a window by means of a windlass, the door, for protection's sake, being effectually blocked up.

This mountain range is described by Lord Lindsay as approached by a narrow wild defile, amid fallen barren rocks, its northern prolongation standing boldly prominent, as one descends on the broad plain sloping to its foot, where the Israelites encamped. There are several lofty frowning peaks. But the real Mount Sinai is, in Lord Lindsay's opinion, that called Gebel Minnegia, or Limmagia, the top of which from the plain of El Raha, by far the most spacious level tract around, can be clearly seen, such not being the case with the

other summits commonly called Sinai. A chapel covers the supposed site of the burning bush.

As to the Red Sea, I will merely observe that in the opinion of Wilkinson, our great hieroglyphic decipherer, Pharaoh himself was not drowned with his host therein, but reigned some years after passing through the sea. Of all the glorious scenery that was so deeply regretted by me, of how surpassing interest must be the view of the "strong city" of Petra, that renowned capital of Edon, so well described by Laborde, Irby and Mangles, Stevens, and in the prophecies of Keith! Now it stands Mount Seir of the land of those who dwell around; it is to this day so "against every man,"* that this noble memorial of bygone fame cannot be visited without incurring considerable hazard from the wild Bedouins, who strongly object to its being seen by Europeans, and are in that district, of

* Genesis, chap. xvi, v. 12.

a peculiarly plundering, treacherous character.

Those, who had recently surveyed it, informed me that it is most romantically situated in an amphitheatre, surrounded by rocks nearly one thousand feet in height ; far the most imposing approach to it being by a defile, almost of equal depth, and so contracted, that two horsemen can in some parts scarcely pass, while the opposite sides at the summit may be said at points even to overhang each other. All, who have referred to Keith's most descriptive work, must know that the edifices and magnificent temples adorned with costly columns much fallen to decay, are entirely excavated in the natural rock, cut down at its lower declivity perpendicularly like a huge wall, but towards the top left rude and untouched.

Now all, all is gone ! " the cormorant and the bittern do possess it," " thorns do come up in her palaces ;" * for I was assured, so

* Isaiah, chap. xxxiv, verses, 11, 13.

entirely is it left to the beasts of the field and birds of the air, that not one human being resides within it; a few wandering Arabs alone pitching their tents occasionally on its condemned site.

The name Bozrah signifies, as well as Petra, its well-merited title of "the strong city;"* "Who is this that cometh from Edon with dyed garments from Bozrah?"† Before quitting the grand capital of the ancient kingdom of the Pharaohs, we procured a passport, or rather certificate, from Mr. Walve, our Consul, to certify that we were British subjects; a circumstance, which, though it might avail little with wild Arabs, yet, I am proud to affirm, occasioned every where attention and respect. A firman could only be procured from Constantinople, and was not requisite for so limited a tour. Camels were the next requisites; these are furnished by a Sheyk, residing near Cairo; we therefore summoned him to meet us at the residence of the Consul,

* Psalm, lx. v. 9.

† Isaiah, lxxiii. v. 1.

where we entered into an agreement duly attested by both parties, containing full particulars, not only as to the precise route, the number of camels, with their attendants, and the sum to be paid for each, but also as to the ability of the animals for performing the journey, with in a stipulated period, stating that if it should occupy a longer time, a certain portion of the sum fixed should be deducted for delay ; such a course must be carefully adopted in making the bargain.

To procure able animals is of the utmost importance, and in order to secure such, I strongly advise that they be previously examined by a competent judge in this particular ; our clever Greek factotum was of no avail. We were consequently much imposed on, agreeing to give fifty shillings for each camel, quite a sufficient price for those of the strongest description, while the majority of those proved to be old and weak, such as might have been purchased for four or five pounds each, and for which the rascally hirer of them probably gave at most thirty

shillings in the street, pocketing the remainder for himself.

We took the precaution, however, in our agreement to reserve the option of either taking the camels the entire distance to Jerusalem in fourteen days, or leaving them at Ramlah or Gaza, and deducting from the pay in proportion. So dreadfully steep, rugged and stony is the road from Ramlah to the Holy City, that it cannot be easily traversed by those animals, whose feet are not only soft but extremely broad and flat ; a wise adaptation to prevent their sinking deeply in the soft sands.

Though the motley group of requisites for our wanderings were procured at Alexandria, yet some additions were made at the capital, as flat barrels for water, so shaped that they might be slung more readily ; a plentiful supply of bread, hard biscuits, oranges, figs, charcoal and chafing dishes for our fires ; these were stowed away with their *compagnons de voyage* in the strong hampers of palm ; two of which were ample food for one camel.

Our party being increased by an American, we mustered seven in number; the whole caravan, including servants and camel drivers, consisting of sixteen persons, all armed, though rather for the sake of appearance than from fear of attack, for little was to be dreaded, under the severe discipline of the Pacha, at all events with so large a party including so many dauntless Europeans, of whose quick percussion locks the Arabs stand in especial awe, their own being at best provided only with flints. Our attendants always wore a long-barrelled gun slung at the back, or pistols fixed in their girdles, while we were constantly accoutred with guns, pistols or swords, purchased for the purpose in the bazaar, wherewith we looked terrific things. How we should have acted in case of an attack, fortunately remains a mystery; but certainly we should not have been inferior to that renowned and redoubtable champion of chivalry, the immortal Don Quixote.

Our party forsooth formed if not a martial at least a mongrel troop, embracing English

and Scotch, French and Americans, anticipating in a short period either to astonish their flocks by reciting from the pulpit the wonders of Canaan, or to operate on patients with genuine native drugs culled in their veritable localities ; such an one, a young physician in perspective as was my brother, proved incomparably the most useful in climes where diseases abound but doctors are scarce.

There was another Englishman, a thoroughly good-natured youth who was the soul of the party by his witticisms, admirable mimicry and skilful performance on the violin ; a flute too was played by a Cantab, so we could sport a concert without tickets for admission. Yes, we had a concert in the Desert, wherein all could most effectually perform their several parts, at least in playing a most sonorous if not harmonious knife and fork tune, since immense dishes piled up with the good things of this life, as though competing with the mighty pile of Cheops, faded away so fleetly before the repeated assaults made on them, as utterly

to astound the weaker digestion of our unfortunate cook. But besides the music and feasting, our Desert trip was infinitely further diversified by the strange peculiarities of the human voice divine, as exemplified in our companion, brother Jonathan, so thorough-going a Yankee having never before set foot in the old world.

Such was the opinion of his compatriots who, in general, proved to be well-informed and shrewd, though opinionated in the extreme. Our new friend possessed the latter qualification in a pre-eminent degree, he had grown with his country's growth, accumulating, by sheer industry, a competent fortune ; when, being seized with the cacoethes for travelling, he resolved by its efficacy to eradicate the rust of early habits, nay, e'en to substitute a polish, not inferior to that produced at "thirty the Strand," by contest with literary or storied climes. In search of this, he had traversed Great Britain, France, Germany, Switzerland, Italy and Greece, and when we first en-

countered each other, his entire stock in trade of modern literature—of ancient forsooth, he had not a single idea—consisted of “*bene*” in Italian, “*oui*” in French, besides a few badly-pronounced words in Dutch, acquired from conversing with those settlers in the New World. Well indeed, might it be said of him, that he would return “grown ten times wiser than before!”

He was niggardly to a fault, though grasping, and considered of course that the whole of Christendom was but a feather in the scale of importance when compared with the United States of America, whereof the principles were fully portrayed in his unceasing “first-rates,” and “go-a-head!” The Frenchman proceeding to Smyrna was an arrant coward, ever lamenting the perils of the way and expecting to be murdered every hour, which idea, we, always mindful of the natural love existing between our respective nations, were wicked enough to promote; his pistols were never quitted

for a moment and were loaded to the muzzle.

Behold us then accoutred, our minds full of expectation, I may add too, for myself at least, buoyed up with the deepest excitement of a most devoted pilgrim starting for the promised land, with our caravan of thirteen camels; but alas! full soon we found that the promise of reaching it would be tardy in execution; our ships of the Desert proving forsooth no cutters nor flying frigates, but though slow and sure as slow as a hulk, advancing less than three miles an hour, and shaking so intolerably from the length of step, six feet at a stretch, and simultaneous movement of the legs on the same side, that the able pedestrians preferred walking to riding.

It was delightful to see with what meekness these animals, so nobly sagacious, though revengeful if ill-treated, knelt down, on a slight jerk of the halter accompanied by a peculiar hissing sound from the attendant, to receive their destined burthens; and it was piteous to hear how sadly they

moaned, when tired or overweighed. Till well practised, we experienced considerable difficulty in keeping our seats, as our beasts rose from their knees, pitching like a ship in a storm, so that to save a capsize we were compelled to seize our apology for a saddle, 'fore and aft, with the tenacity of a leech. And when we were once firmly seated, how uncouth were the seats, being a kind of wooden packsaddle, without any leather, having old cloths thrown over them, rendering those the most comfortable quarters, whereon our carpet bags and bedding were stowed !

For the sake of increased tranquillity, I, being a valetudinarian, provided a double hammock or wooden couch, boarded on the outside, in part arched above, where a canvass was spread to screen me from the rays of the sun. Two of these formed an equipoise and, certainly, the article saves fatigue, its length admitting of almost a recumbent posture, and being large enough to contain the small mattress and pillow, best suited to a roving life; but even in

this position the motion was quite fatiguing, causing for a time a nausea approaching that experienced at sea. Whole families of women and children are not unfrequently carried in a similar manner, stowed away in deep panniers. To the head of the camel a rude halter is fastened, adorned, as were the other trappings, with numberless diminutive cowries, from superstitious reasons ; by this bridle the animals are tied behind each other during the journey.

The flesh of young camels is held in estimation, the hunch being of peculiar delicacy ; the tongues are delicious. This was forbidden food to the Jews,* being unclean, because it did not divide the hoof ; though, in general, the same animals are allowed to Jews and Mahometans. The trifling sustenance required by these admirable creatures was fully witnessed by us, being limited, after a long day's march, to a few beans and succulent plants gathered by the road.

* Leviticus chap. xi, v. 4.

Such were our animals, and such the semblance of our party, as we wended our way from Cairo the Grand ; whence, having traversed for two or three hours the sandy waste, we passed the city of On, or Helio-
polis, the daughter of the Priest of which city was Joseph's wife.* An obelisk, with slight traces of a row of sphinxes, so common in Upper Egypt, are alone visible.

Rameses is placed a few miles north-east of Cairo, it is the modern town of Abouzebel. Proceeding onwards, in a direction north-east by east, we next skirted the land of Goshen, abounding in fertility, though portions of the district immediately traversed were somewhat barren, alternating between extensive groves of palm and fertile arable plains. This sameness of scenery continued, the cultivated portions gradually diminishing, till the fourth day of our journey, when we plunged into the veritable Desert ; though before this, even on the second night after our departure,

* Genesis, chap. xii, v. 45.

our prospects were not of the most comforting kind. At the large solitary village of Bilbeis, where we encamped, we were told on arriving, that it was imperiously necessary, if we would avoid robbery at least, to sleep in the capacious square court of a Khan, surrounded by lofty walls; but its aspect was so filthy, that we preferred remaining under tents in the open Desert at all hazards, and demanded a guard from the Sheyk for our protection. This he refused to supply, saying, that the inhabitants were a notorious set of rascals, and if, after furnishing a guard, any evil should befall us, he would be held responsible with his own head. Thus the only alternative was to mount sentry ourselves, and as we buckled on our armour, undaunted for the encounter, I called to mind the inspiriting sentiment of Fitz-James, the brave Snowdon's knight, when he was opposed to terrific odds,

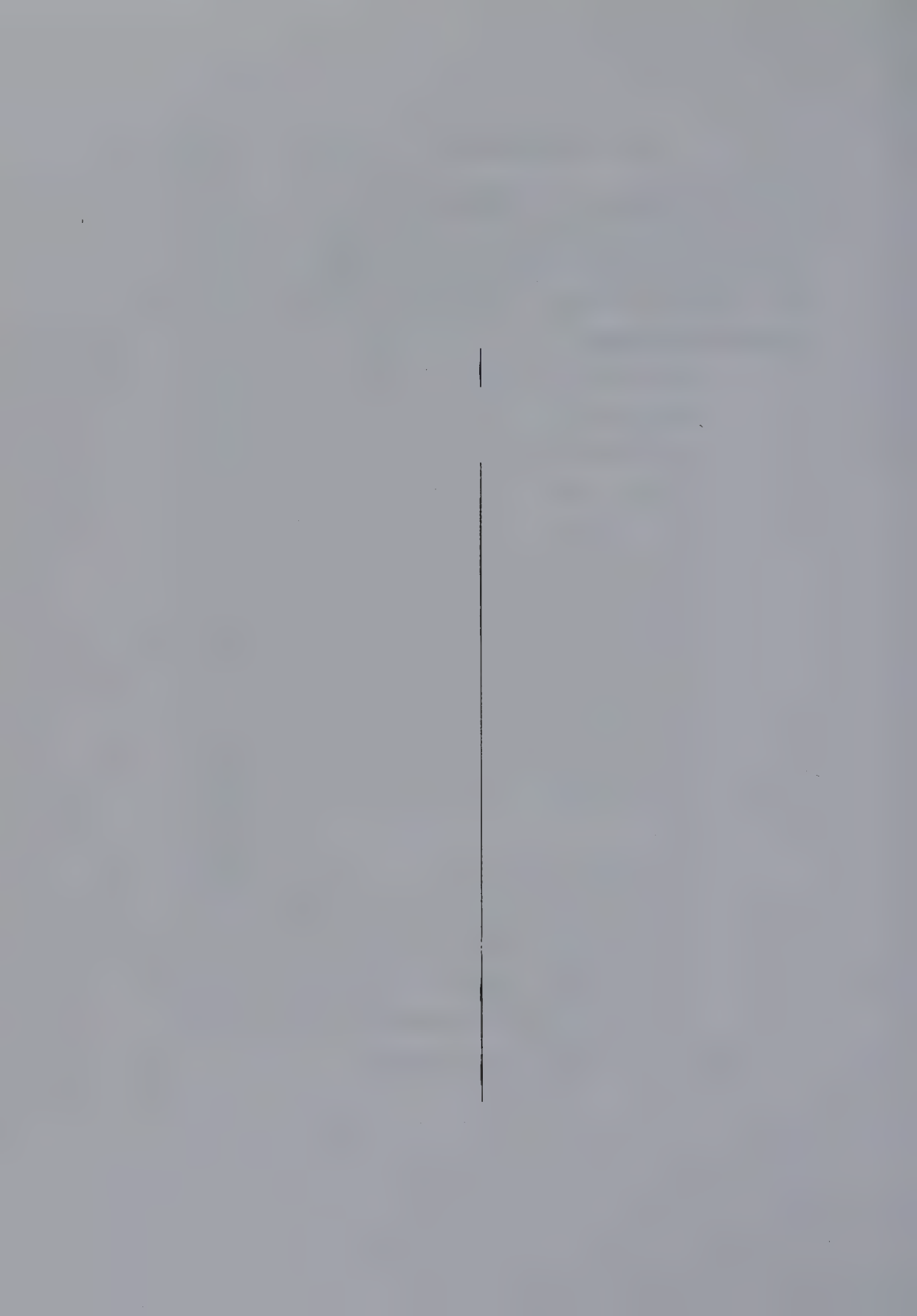
"Come the worst that may betide,
Ere now this falchion hath been tried ;"

and had not due precaution been taken, doubtless our baggage would not have answered to the morning muster-roll, many prowlers being seen lurking around. We subsequently learned that a party preceding us, a very brief period, were really deprived of several articles ; moreover, the Pacha had more than once severely punished many of the people, and almost destroyed the village, in consequence of their abandoned condition. But we, endowed with the ennobling spirit of chivalry, preferred some daring enterprise, some "moving accident by flood and field," if not "hair-breadth 'scapes in th' imminent deadly breach," to being cooped within the dingy walls of a khan, a prey to those voracious torturers that ever throng them.

These khans, or rather caravanserais, are usually constructed at the public expense, for the accommodation of travellers, and contain a huge square court, surrounded by recesses, slightly elevated

above the ground, for sleeping quarters. The entrance is guarded by strong gates ; temporary occupants find their own food, but a plentiful supply of water may be procured on the spot.

END OF VOL. I.



This is a reproduction of a book published before 1923 or a book otherwise in the public domain. This book may have occasional imperfections such as missing or blurred pages, poor pictures, errant marks, etc. that were either part of the original artifact, or were introduced by the scanning process. We believe this work is culturally important, and despite the imperfections, have elected to bring it back into print as part of our continuing commitment to the preservation of printed works worldwide. We appreciate your understanding of the imperfections in the preservation process, and hope you enjoy this valuable book.

